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Speaker: The Honourable George Qulaut, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Gjoa Haven)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat North-Whale Cove)
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(Aggu)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

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(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguut)

Steve Mapsalak
(Aivilik)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister responsible for the Status of Women; Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council

Hon. Johnny Mike
(Pangnirtung)
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Hon. Joe Savikataaq
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(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)
Minister of Health; Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention

Hon. Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial Management Board; Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for Labour; Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission

Isaac Shooyook
(Quttiktuq)

David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

Hon. Peter Taptuna
(Kugluktuk)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

Members Present:

Mr. Tony Akoak, Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Mr. Joe Enook, Hon. George Hickes, Mr. David Joanasié, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. George Kuksuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Hon. Johnny Mike, Mr. Simeon Mikkungwak, Mr. Paul Okalik, Hon. Keith Peterson, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Hon. Paul Quassa, Hon. George Qulaut, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Mr. Tom Sammurtok, Hon. Joe Savikataaq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook, Hon. Peter Taptuna.

>>House commenced at 13:30

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. George Qulaut) (interpretation): Mr. Paul Quassa, can you say the opening prayer, please.

>>Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, my fellow Nunavummiut. Members, ministers, (interpretation ends) and Premier, (interpretation) welcome as well as the visitors.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Paul Quassa.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 267 – 4(3):
Correction: French Language
Instruction**

Hon. Paul Quassa: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a correction in relation to a statement that I made on Monday, February 27.

I recently shared information about French language instruction in Nunavut and I would like to clarify that French first language instruction is offered in Nunavut by the Commission scolaire francophone du Nunavut, or CSFN, rather than the Department of Education. The department provides support to the CSFN but is not responsible for that programming.

I apologize for any confusion my previous statement may have caused. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

**Minister's Statement 268 – 4(3):
Nunavut Food Security Coalition
Community Project Funding**

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut and the residents of my community.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, my department co-chairs the Nunavut Food Security Coalition, which brings partners together to look at how policies and programs can make food more accessible and affordable to vulnerable Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the coalition also works to support community efforts that improve access to food for those who are most vulnerable to hunger. I am pleased to share with you that the Nunavut Food Security Coalition has supported 16 community-based food security projects in 14 communities in 2016-17 for a total

of \$256,000. Communities include Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, Qikiqtarjuaq, and Rankin Inlet.

(interpretation ends) Funded projects have included community kitchens, youth and adult cooking classes, greenhouse initiatives, and hunter mentorship initiatives. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work and dedication of the community volunteers that make these initiatives possible.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as recognized in *Sivumut Abluqta*, adequate food is fundamental to the health, education and well-being of Nunavummiut. As such, the Nunavut Food Security Coalition will continue to coordinate funding with other Government of Nunavut departments that are funding country food, community freezers, and cooking classes, will share best practices learned from the funded projects with all communities, and will continue to work with all communities in Nunavut to expand their efforts to improve access to food for those who are most vulnerable to hunger and to develop applications for the upcoming 2017-18 call for proposals.

(interpretation ends) My department looks forward to continuing work with our partners in supporting a network of community-based programs and addressing the complex issue of food insecurity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Hon. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

**Minister's Statement 269 – 4(3):
Update on the Film Industry**

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk
(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on the status on the film industry in our territory.

As I indicated in my statement last October, the film industry is flourishing in Nunavut. At that time I mentioned the praise that the three made-in-Nunavut feature films had been receiving.

I would now like to add another film to that made-in-Nunavut list. As you all know, (interpretation ends) *Angry Inuk* (interpretation) by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril has been receiving many awards since its release.

Mr. Speaker, the boom in the film industry has resulted in an unprecedented number of applications to the Nunavut Spend Incentive Program, which is funded by the Government of Nunavut and is administered by Nunavut Film.

To address the evolution of the sector and to explore how best to support its growth, Nunavut Film is organizing a film, television and digital media industry forum in the coming months.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time Nunavut Film's Chief Executive Officer, Derek Mazur, has announced that he will be retiring in May. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Mazur for over

six years of passionate work serving Nunavut's film industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Mr. George Hicke.

**Minister's Statement 270 – 4(3):
Burial Coverage**

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to share with Nunavummiut that the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services have clarified information regarding burial coverage in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in certain, specific circumstances the Government of Nunavut is responsible for the cost of burials. Complete details are available in a fact sheet that can be found on both of our departmental websites.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief overview of the coverage available.

If a current resident of Nunavut passes away while out of territory on medical travel, the deceased is repatriated to Nunavut at no cost to the family.

Whether an individual passes away while under the guardianship of Family Services or under the care of Health, a Nunavut resident who passes away out of territory will be repatriated to Nunavut by the Government of Nunavut at no cost to the family or the individual's estate.

Mr. Speaker, the new fact sheet clarifies the responsibilities and financial

assistance that is available. The fact sheet provides specific details on:

- who is eligible for burial costs;
- coverage provided by the Department of Health through medical travel;
- coverage provided by the departments of Health and Family Services; and
- coverage provided by the coroner's office.

Mr. Speaker, the fact sheet entitled "Burial Coverage" can be viewed in the Medical Travel section on the Department of Health website or under the Frequently Asked Questions section on the Department of Family Services website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 504 – 4(3): Lack of Addiction Treatment in Nunavut

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to the people of Nunavut, the people of my community, and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, there are no treatment facilities in Nunavut. I am concerned about it and it is very concerning that we don't have any facilities for people with addictions where they can get help. Mr. Speaker, a treatment facility has to be a

priority because we have our own Nunavut government now.

Mr. Speaker, they're thinking of selling weaker alcohol like beer and wine and they have been considered a priority when there is no treatment centre. I am very concerned about that when there is no treatment facility available.

Mr. Speaker, many people will require help once the beer and wine store is opened in Nunavut. Many people will have nowhere to turn to. There is a treatment centre in Ottawa, but it is very expensive and once it is full, the people who need help won't have anywhere to go to. It's set up the wrong way. The treatment centre should be a priority before they bring that store in.

I will have questions for the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 505 – 4(3):
Acknowledgement of Kugaaruk
Firefighters**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk, my colleagues, and visitors in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the efforts of Kugaaruk's firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, Kugaaruk's firefighters made great efforts under challenging circumstances last week to contain the school fire and prevent it from spreading

to other buildings in the community. They helped to prevent a bad situation from becoming even worse.

I want to acknowledge the firefighters by name:

- Fire Chief Vincent Ningark;
- Firefighter Frankie Immingark Sr.;
- Firefighter Colin Krejunark;
- Firefighter Gaetan Apsaktaun;
- Firefighter Etienne Kakkianium;
- Firefighter Adam Krejunark;
- Firefighter Philippe Alakannuark;
- Firefighter Norman Qavvik;
- Firefighter Jonathan Ningark;
- Firefighter Kyle Amautinuq;
- Firefighter Adrian Qauqjuaq;
- Firefighter Pauloosie Nungaq;
- Firefighter Fabien Peetooloot; and
- Firefighter Frankie Immingark Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in acknowledging their dedication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Peter Taptuna.

**Member's Statement 506 – 4(3):
Minor Hockey Development in
Kugluktuk**

Hon. Peter Taptuna (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, Nunavummiut, and the people of Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, many folks across Canada are hockey fans. In Nunavut there is no exception. Large or small, in our communities, hockey is our passion.

Growing up and watching exciting hockey, the Original Six, then seeing the expansion of the NHL, one team comes to mind. For people in my generation, the Philadelphia Flyers were the toughest, meanest, scariest, and (skilled) team to play in the 1970s. They had players such as Bobby Clarke, Ed van Impe, Rick MacLeish, Bernie Parent, and many others.

For many of us, the Riverton Rifle was one of the purest goal scorers to have laced up a pair of skates, and of course he is our idol. Mr. Reggie Leach, the Riverton Rifle, was an aboriginal kid from Manitoba who lit up the lamp and in one season scored an unbelievable 61 goals.

Mr. Speaker, recently Reggie was in Kugluktuk and was assisting and helping train our minor hockey players. He visited with our youth and was welcomed by our community.

Many ex-NHLers have come to Nunavut and the north to assist our kids and our coaches, and this is very much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, join me in thanking Mr. Reggie Leach, the Riverton Rifle, for sharing his knowledge and skills with our young people of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for South Baffin, Mr. David Joanasié.

Member's Statement 507 – 4(3): Up-and-coming Kinngait Artist

Mr. Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my colleagues, visitors in the gallery, and the people listening to the proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Saimaiyu Akesuk from Cape Dorset, who just recently started doing artwork.

Mr. Speaker, Saimaiyu Akesuk was 28 years old when she started her artwork. Even though there are many well-known artists in Cape Dorset such as Kenojuak Ashevak and Pitseolak Ashoona, the young people have also been doing their artwork and showcasing their art. They're pretty well known now.

Mr. Speaker, Saimaiyu, in cooperation with (interpretation ends) Dorset Fine Arts (interpretation) and the Co-op from Cape Dorset, travelled to Portland, Oregon, USA to the Froelick Gallery to showcase her artwork.

I wanted to make a statement to congratulate Saimaiyu on her artwork. She has had the opportunity to talk about her artwork to the international audience and how artwork is important to the people of Cape Dorset and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, last month in February Saimaiyu's artwork was shown in the gallery. I would like to thank the Froelick Gallery, especially Dorset Fine Art and William Huffman. I also thank Saimaiyu for having the opportunity to represent Cape Dorset and for working hard on her artwork. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. I have no more

names on my list. Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Members, please join me in welcoming participants from the Institute on Governance who have joined us today in the Visitors' Gallery. The participants are senior members of the federal public service who are on a study tour of Iqaluit this week. Accompanying them is Ms. Catherine Waters from the institute. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Member for Iqaluit-Tasiluk, Mr. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you. I would like to again welcome all the members in the gallery, but I would like to specifically welcome to the House some special visitors from New Brunswick who are here visiting Kathy Perrin, our Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, along with her daughter Lauren, who is hosting them here in Iqaluit.

I would like everyone to welcome Kathy's family, Clint Perrin and Luke Perrin, to the gallery today. Like I said, they are visiting from their home in New Brunswick. I had the pleasure of speaking briefly with them a little bit this afternoon and they have been taking advantage of the nice weather we've been having.

I would like to also take this opportunity to publicly thank Kathy, who has been a very valuable member of the health team

since joining us in 2015. I just want to thank her for all her hard work, and I hope you enjoy your visit with your family. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have no more names on my list. Moving on. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Sinaa, Paul Okalik.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 658 – 4(3): Preference for Non-smoking Athletes

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It almost feels like Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sport and Recreation.

I would like to ask the minister in regard to youth who go play in tournaments everywhere. They're assessed for skill and provided with financial assistance. I also know that the government is running anti-smoking campaigns across Nunavut.

Can the minister conduct a review on how to increase these supports? Would the minister be willing to add more support through his office for those youth who do not smoke? This would help encourage our youth to quit smoking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that there's no place for smoking in Nunavut, but unfortunately it's a sad fact that we have one of the highest smoking rates in Canada. As the sports minister I encourage athletes not to smoke.

Sport is under CGS and sport does not have any programs to assist people to stop smoking. That would be with the Department of Health. If I understood the member correctly, we are in full support to discourage anyone who smokes who is an athlete. I also believe that the athletes that are very high in performance most likely probably don't smoke, but I agree with the member that we should discourage smoking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funds that are used for pilot projects by the Sport and Recreation Division would be a good source for financing participants as non-smokers in sports tournaments in Nunavut. Can the minister's office look into this possibility for this kind of use in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tobacco cessation "stopness," I can't remember what it's called, but to encourage people not to smoke is the responsibility of the Department of Health. It's not the responsibility of the Department of CGS

under the sports.

I fully agree with the member that we should help people to quit smoking or to not start at all would be even better, but that mandate is under the Department of Health. It's not under our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know for sure that the Minister of Finance can respond the same because there's going to be an increase on tobacco tax. Perhaps if the government departments work with each other, like with the department responsible for sports for young people, it would have more success on the smoking cessation program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member talks about the Department of Finance that is not under Health, but they're raising the price of cigarettes to try to curtail the usage. That's a tax issue and I won't speak to that. We don't have any programs or funds available to assist people to stop smoking or not start at all.

If people and not just athletes, but if people didn't start at all, that's the ideal situation. The funds that we have are to help the people of Nunavut go to sports and encourage them to stay in shape. I commend the member for wanting to curtail smoking or not start it at all with

young people, especially young athletes.

I agree with him except for the fact that it is not under our mandate and we encourage people not to start smoking or to stop smoking, but that is not part of our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Ms. Pat Angnakak.

Question 659 – 4(3): Government of Nunavut’s Contract for Medical and Duty Travel

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Welcome.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health.

I want to revisit the issue of the government’s contracts for medical travel and duty travel on scheduled airlines.

As the minister is aware, section 2.2.3 of the government’s 2011 request for proposals that led to the current contracts stated that the government wished to “improve scheduled airline service throughout Nunavut” and that airlines submitting proposals should clearly indicate how the proposals “would contribute to improving scheduled airline services throughout Nunavut.”

In the 2015-16 fiscal year the government spent almost \$110 million on medical and duty travel. That’s a lot of money.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked in this House before about leveraging our purchasing power to encourage airlines to improve service for Nunavummiut. Will similar provisions be included in the government’s next request for proposals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Health, Hon. George Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for raising this issue. We’re working with Community and Government Services to highlight the parameters of the RFP that we will be putting out down the road for medical travel and potentially for duty travel as it’s combined right now.

We are in the process with Community and Government Services to look at the hiring of an avionics expert so that we can for one, make sure that we’re covering all our bases as far as determining the needs that need to be met by Nunavummiut.

Specifically for medical travel, we have to make sure that we have airline cooperation with all of our communities as it is a point of departure to many access points for health care service delivery. We want to make sure going forward that we get at least the service that we’re getting now.

There is continuous dialogue with our airline partners that we utilize medical travel with to make sure that they’re adhering to the contract parameters. In addition, we continuously work with them to explore different scheduling options to “expediate” medical travel

patients to the access point for their medical care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I think the government has a really good opportunity here to really think about the smaller communities and the high cost of airline tickets.

The government's 2011 request for proposals clearly indicated that the maximum length of the contract would be for six years: one three-year term and up to three one-year extensions. Last month the minister informed the House that the government has negotiated another two-year extension.

My question for the minister is this: what is the point of prescribing maximum contract lengths in RFPs if the government can simply negotiate extensions as it deems fit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we establish timelines and sunset of any contract that we enter into, it's not anticipated and it's not a regular occurrence to go into a negotiated extension.

In the circumstances that led to the medical travel and duty travel contract being extended, there was a lot of uncertainty with the codeshare and there was some uncertainty of other players in the marketplace.

At the end of the day the objective of the Department of Health, Community and Government Services, and the government as a whole is to make sure we're getting the best value available for our residents. At the time it was felt that that was the best recourse.

Like I had mentioned, we are working with Community and Government Services to make sure we have experts in place so that when we go out for tender for the next contract, we have expertise that we want to make sure that we are getting not only getting the best value but also the best service for our residents. This allows us the opportunity to bring in that expertise and to make sure that we put out an RFP that will meet the needs of our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for his response. Can the minister clarify then what specific aspects of the current contract have been changed as part of the latest extension? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health, Mr. Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any major changes. The only change that comes to my mind is an escalator clause that was put into the original contract. The whole purpose of it was maintaining the parameters of the existing contract that we had.

I just want to further elaborate on an earlier response. Not only are we working with Community and Government Services, but we are also working with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation on identifying transportation routes and different parameters that will enhance the service for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Isaac Shooyook.

Question 660 – 4(3): Beer and Wine Store

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Corrections. I'm not sure how to say it in a meaningful way.

The minister was talking about the beer and wine store the other day. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about an individual that was found frozen. I would like to ask the minister: if lower alcohol content beverage is going to be available, would that reduce harm done in its consumption? Please clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure that I understood the question, but the beer and wine that we are proposing to sell through the beer and wine store would be low alcohol content. Beer is 5 percent; wine is 13 to 17 percent. The hard alcohol that Mr.

Shooyook would be referring to, we are trying to deter people from smoking or...

>>*Laughter*

I've got all of these things in my head.

...deter people from drinking in huge quantities of high content alcohol, 40-proof and higher. That's where people would typically binge drink. They will get a 60-ounce bottle possibly from a bootlegger, which there are many bootleggers in Nunavut and they are in most of our communities. I have heard of them and we have all heard of them. It has been in the media.

They would get a 60-ounce bottle of hard stuff and they would binge drink it, and then what would happen is if they go out on a cold night... I know this from my own experience in Cambridge Bay. People pass out and it's 40 below and they could be seriously injured because they could freeze to death or lose a leg or an arm if they are not rescued very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for clarifying that. Mr. Speaker, I would again like to ask the minister about the beer and wine store with lower alcohol content. When that beer and wine store opens some time in the future, would the residents of the Nunavut communities be able to make orders from that beer and wine store or would they need a permit, or would there be a limit on wine or beer that one individual can order? Would there be a limit set or

could they order as much as they want? Can you clarify that for me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Minister Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. Mr. Speaker, when the beer and wine store opens locally, we have regulations that were passed a couple years ago. You would be able to go down daily and get one case of beer and two bottles of wine, and that would be every day. It's not like they can go down and get six cases of beer and two cases of wine.

If you're from another community, depending on where you are in Nunavut, in the Kitikmeot, where I'm from in Cambridge Bay, people would have to get a permit from the Nunavut Liquor Commission to order their beer, wine, or other alcohol products from Yellowknife or Edmonton. If you were in Rankin Inlet, you could order from the south or order from the warehouse here in Iqaluit. You have to get permits. If you're from Iqaluit, you can order from the warehouse in Rankin Inlet or from an alcohol store in the south.

If you're from other communities, depending on whether you've had a plebiscite, people could be prohibited totally. No, you can't bring any alcohol in, so you can't get a permit or you could get an alcohol permit from the alcohol education committee and they would also place restrictions on how much alcohol you could bring into your community. There are restrictions in

place, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for clarifying that for me. I have another question for the minister. I know you said there are 25 communities. If the Northern Stores and Co-ops want to be able to sell beer and wine and obtain the permits to do so, will that mean they will be able to transport them in by ship in the future? Is that what this means?

In addition, with respect to those communities that wish to have drinking establishments, will that mean anyone can apply to open bars in Nunavut or does it mean that won't happen? Please clarify for me whether it that means communities that are in favour of opening beer and wine stores in the future and sell beverages with low alcohol content to improve our lives will be able to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his interest in alcoholic products.

Mr. Speaker, part of this whole initiative, and I have to commend the member as one of his constituents was on the task force that we set it up in 2010 that went around to all the communities in Nunavut and took well over two years. They made a recommendation to

look at a beer and wine stores as a pilot project to disrupt bootleggers and reduce binge drinking.

They talked about a social responsibility program, which this House has approved, and they will do a little public relations and educate people about social responsibility. They looked at Greenland. Greenland opened beer and wine stores and the results were tremendous over there. The hard drinking went down and people learned to co-exist with beer and wine. Did it fully eliminate drinking? No.

With respect to Mr. Shooyook's direct question, there are no beer and wine stores currently in Nunavut. We have two liquor warehouses. In Iqaluit there are many outlets for alcohol. If those outlets sell alcohol, they have to get licences from the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board specific to whatever event or type of service they are providing. If you're having a fundraiser, you might have to get a special occasion licence for that. If it's a wedding, then a special occasion licence for that. If you're running a bar, you have to get permits. If you're running a lounge, you've got to get permits to sell your products.

If people are interested in opening a beer and wine store, it's similar to what Iqaluit did. Ninety-nine people signed a petition a few years ago saying, "We would like the Government Nunavut to open a beer and wine store." They asked for that, so we asked the city. The city supported us with a motion, and then eventually we had the plebiscite where 78 percent, well over a thousand people in Iqaluit, showed up in a relatively cold day on April 20, 2015 and said, "We

support the opening of a beer and wine store." That's the process we go through, whether it's Iqaluit or some other community.

We don't just open beer and wine stores or liquor stores. The people would have to ask us and we would have a non-binding plebiscite. In fact there are a couple of communities right now that have asked for plebiscites to ask the question to open a beer and wine store in their communities, so we're considering that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. David Joanasie.

Question 661 – 4(3): Mould Infestation in Public Housing Units

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. As the Member for South Baffin, my questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will recall, I asked him questions during our recent fall sitting concerning the housing corporation's request for proposals to undertake mould remediation and assessment of 241 public housing units, including 13 units in Cape Dorset and 5 units in Kimmirut. Can the minister confirm today if these assessments were all completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize to you. That wasn't intentional.

Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. Mr. Speaker, the assessment is still ongoing and there were quite a number of communities in the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot that have had to undertake mould remediation and assessment.

The mould assessment was funded by the federal government and the housing corporation started the mould remediation with the help of the local housing organizations. If the local housing organizations weren't able to undertake the work, we would put out a contract. It's going smoothly, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. David Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm whether or not the mould has actually been removed from any or all of the 241 units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We have to find out which units need mould remediation. Looking at all the housing units in Nunavut, approximately 5 percent of the units needed mould remediation. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recent report on housing from the Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples highlighted the issue of mould infestation in public housing units across the territory. Has the Nunavut Housing Corporation been able to determine the approximate cost to remove mould from all affected units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I again thank the member. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the mould remediation would be undertaken by the housing associations or organizations. If they can't do the work, then we would hire a contractor to do the mould remediation. Mr. Speaker, the mould remediation will proceed.

For phase 2, after the completion of the remediation, we will be putting out an RFP to start the process. That's where we are at right now. Once the RFP for phase 2 is awarded, the remediation will be completed and there will be a report on the assessment. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq.

Question 662 – 4(3): Update on Kugaaruk Situation

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Minister of Education.

I want to begin by acknowledging the speed with which the government sent its team to the community of Kugaaruk last week following the school fire.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear!

Mr. Qirngnuq: For the record, can the minister update the House today on progress made to identify temporary classroom space in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for asking for an update and keeping the House informed of what's going on. It's good to see that it is going well with the school in Kugaaruk. To date they already identified six buildings that can be used by the school. I can even say that the elementary school is already using one of the buildings. I thank the community for making them readily available. That's where we are to date. They have identified six buildings that can be used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A significant number of constituents worked at Kugaaruk's school. Some constituents work as teachers, others work as administrators, clerical and custodial positions. Can the minister clarify what will happen to all of the positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there are as many as 35 staff members who were working at the school. There are about 300 students. Of the close to 35 staffs members, none of them will lose their jobs. It goes without saying that they will have work to do during this school year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I am happy about his reply that they won't lose their jobs this year.

(interpretation ends) Even before the fire occurred, I was raising concerns regarding the uniquely challenging nature of Kugaaruk's annual sealift. Can the minister indicate if a decision has been made yet regarding the method by which portable classrooms will be shipped into the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear sometimes that ships cannot make it to Kugaaruk when there is too much ice around the community. I have also heard that if a normal cargo ship cannot go there, a Coast Guard ship goes there from Grise Fiord. Right now we have plans to send those portable classrooms by ship and if that can't be done, we're trying to look at other options.

We know that near Kugaaruk there's an old (interpretation ends) DEW line (interpretation) site and we have looked at the airport at the old DEW line site. However, today we will be requesting six portables and we will be trying to ship them by sea. We're open to suggestions on how to ship them. We're planning to ship those six portable classrooms that will be used by our students next fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Allan Rumbolt.

Question 663 – 4(3): Review of Social Assistance Food Rates

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, today my questions are for the Minister of Family Services.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, changes to Nunavut's social assistance food rates are done through regulations.

I was very pleased back in 2009 when my request to have Sanikiluaq reclassified into region 1 was granted.

Can the minister provide an update on how often the amount for social assistance food rates is reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for that question. If I

understood him correctly, I believe the member is talking about doing a review on food rates. I'm not sure whether he's asking about income support programs in general or about social assistance. I will have to look into what this review is for.

I can say that the Social Assistance Program under Family Services and the income support funding are under review. If I understood the member correctly, that's all I can respond to right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm referring to the amount that clients take home at the end of each month.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister will be aware, Nunavut's social assistance food rates were last increased in 2011. That was six years ago and it was six years before that in 2005 when they were increased. We're now in 2017, six years since the last increase in social assistance food rates. Will the minister agree that it's time to increase Nunavut's social assistance food rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now understand his question and I'm happy to provide a response.

The Minister of Finance's Budget Address for 2017-18 identified that the level of income support assistance

spending has been increased over a six-year period by 60 percent. This is how much support funding has increased.

Nonetheless, another program was introduced in 2016 last year. The federal child benefits were deducted in the past from the income assistance payments from the Department of Family Services' social assistance programs. The federal child benefit deductions from the Department of Family Services' income assistance programs meant that there was less income for clients by approximately \$7 million.

The exemption of federal child benefits from calculations of income assistance programs of the Department of Family Services has provided additional financial support to low-income Nunavummiut to help cover the cost of living by about \$7 million annually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since 2001 the cost of living across Canada, including Nunavut, has increased. Inflation continues to grow with steady rising costs for food and other goods. Since 2011 the Government of Nunavut employees have not seen one but two new collective agreements with increases in their salaries to help address the rising cost of living. Other collective agreements have included similar raises.

Will the minister commit to helping Nunavut's most vulnerable residents meet the rising costs of feeding their families and raise Nunavut's social assistance food rates before the end of 2017? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Mike.

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for pushing for the increase. The review was done by the departments of Family Services and Economic Development and Transportation and the reforms that were proposed. We look for other ways of helping those who find themselves in urgent need of assistance by Family Services. We have clearly stated that in our review and the reforms that will be made, especially in all of the programs Family Services provides and the Income Support Program, how we can do more through those programs and what kind of reforms we can make not only in that program but in the poverty reduction review. That will have to be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Question 664 – 4(3): Blueprint for Action on Housing

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I continue to receive concerns from a number of my constituents regarding the public housing rent scale. One of the specific concerns that have been raised by a number of my constituents is the method by which the income of public housing tenants is assessed and verified.

A number of my constituents have indicated that there appear to be discrepancies between how income is calculated and presented by employers and how it is calculated and presented by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Can the minister confirm if the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* will review this aspect of the public housing rent scale? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member for that question. Mr. Speaker, we keep referring to (interpretation ends) the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. (interpretation) A lot of work was put into it from the government and stakeholders outside the government.

My short answer to his question is yes, there are many details and there are 60 action items that we have to consider in the blueprint for action, which include the cost of maintaining a house, income levels, and the rent scale. In response to his question, all of these issues will be looked at through the blueprint for action, such as the rent scale and other action items in that blueprint. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I continue to receive concerns from a number of my constituents

regarding what are perceived to be inequities between policies for staff housing and policies for public housing. For example, constituents have asked whether or not people with full-time jobs who live in staff housing units or public housing units are treated equitably when it comes to such things as paying a fair share for furniture. I do recognize that the cost of furniture is included in staff housing rent calculations.

Can the minister confirm if the *Blueprint for Action on Housing* will review the issue of equitable treatment for staff housing tenants and public housing tenants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. George Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, all the people who live in staff housing units or public housing units are addressed in the blueprint for action and they will be worked on. I can't give a definitive answer to his question right now, but government employees who live in staff housing, people who live in public housing, and the rent scale will all be looked at in the blueprint for action. They're all addressed there. That's all I can tell my colleague. To answer his question, all those details will be handled in the *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Mr. Tom Sammurtok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) There are 60 separate action items in the Nunavut Housing Corporation's *Blueprint for Action on Housing*. Can the minister clarify how the Nunavut Housing Corporation is prioritizing which specific action items to address first? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Kuksuk.

Hon. George Kuksuk (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can tell my colleague that our department cannot handle that alone and we have to rely on other government departments to do this work. They will be indicating to us what their priorities are.

The lack of housing is a very big issue in Nunavut. The construction of housing in the Arctic and all of those things are going to be looked at. I can tell the member that as the work is being done, a report will be produced as to the work that has been completed. All the items are being worked on and will be put into a minister's report that will be tabled in the House. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqummiut, Mr. Pauloosie Keyootak.

**Question 665 – 4(3): Clyde River
Integrated Community
Infrastructure Sustainability Plan**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for

the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister is aware, the only project for Clyde River that is currently on the government's five-year capital plan is a new mechanical garage. Funding in the amount of \$1.5 million is projected to be spent by the Department of Community and Government Services in the 2018-19 fiscal year on this project. Can the minister confirm that this project is on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite understand the member's question, so I would like him to repeat it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Uqummiut, please rephrase your question.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Funding in the amount of \$1.5 million is projected to be spent by the Department of Community and Government Services in the 2018-19 fiscal year on the new mechanical garage in Clyde River. Can the minister confirm that this project is on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand the question correctly, I will try to answer it.

There are three garages that need to be worked on and they're looking to see whether the money will be used to renovate or build new ones, but it's being assessed at the moment. The decision hasn't been made either way yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister will recall, I tabled a copy of Clyde River's updated integrated community infrastructure sustainability plan earlier in our current winter sitting. Can the minister confirm which department of the government has the primary responsibility for working with municipalities on their integrated community infrastructure sustainability plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would work with the hamlet council. The \$1.5 million for that project was approved by the House, so the project will proceed. I can't indicate what actual work will be done, but the funding has been approved and the project will proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clyde River's updated integrated community infrastructure

sustainability plan identifies a number of specific projects that the community needs.

Can the minister clearly explain how the government decides which capital projects it will fund and which ones it will not fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Community and Government Services, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money identified is for mechanical garages and the project will proceed. The details will be put together. They will either renovate the current buildings or build a new one. We're still looking to see which option we will proceed with. I just want to assure the member that the funding has been approved for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake, Simeon Mikkungwak.

Question 666 – 4(3): Muskox Management

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment.

As the minister is well aware, caribou population trends in Nunavut have begun to show declines in recent years.

In its most recent *Statutory Report on Wildlife*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on November 19, 2013, the government states that "There are some communities where caribou numbers are very low, where HTOs are

encouraging more harvest of muskox to reduce the pressure on caribou populations and allow the caribou numbers to increase again.”

Can the minister clarify if his department supports an increased harvest of muskox to reduce pressure on caribou populations in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We encourage the wise use of wildlife in Nunavut. As for the harvest of the muskox, the current TAH that is allocated for the muskox in the Kivalliq, there are two muskox zones there, both TAH are not fully utilized at the end of the season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us when his department last conducted a population study on the muskox population in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Environment, Mr. Joe Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Kivalliq the muskox zones are divided into two zones and the divider is Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet. Whatever is on the south of that is considered the central Kivalliq. That population survey was done in 2010 and

at that time the population estimate was 4,736 animals.

Mr. Speaker, the other zone is north of Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet and that is considered to be called the North Kivalliq. That survey was done in 2012 and the estimated population of the muskox at that time was 2,431. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister is aware, Kitikmeot Foods Ltd. is a Nunavut Development Corporation subsidiary, which holds an annual muskox harvest and processes the products of its harvest locally to be distributed nationally and internationally, creating jobs and income for communities.

Will the minister commit his department to completing a study to determine the feasibility of holding a commercial muskox harvest in the Kivalliq region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Savikataaq.

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the member talked about in the Kitikmeot there on the Victoria Island commercial harvest, I don't think that commercial harvest is on anymore.

As for the Kivalliq here, we do have the Rankin Inlet Meat Plant where they do on occasion buy muskox meat from the hunters. I know that they did last year. The current quota that is allotted for the

Kivalliq, if the HTO decides they would like to sell their muskox to the meat plant, they're in full control of their allocated tags for each community. They can use that to sell to the meat plant if they wish. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Mr. Tony Akoak.

Question 667 – 4(3): Legal Services Board

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, (interpretation) residents of Gjoa Haven, (interpretation) and my family watching.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Justice.

As the minister will recall, I have asked a number of questions concerning the operations of the Legal Services Board, an organization which is headquartered in my community of Gjoa Haven.

I have previously raised questions as to why the board's chief executive officer has been located in Rankin Inlet and the board's comptroller has been located in Manitoba. As of today, can the minister indicate where these two positions are currently located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) The Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Akoak's information is correct. The chief executive officer or executive director is located in Rankin

Inlet and the comptroller is located in Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In April of 2016 a contract was awarded to a consulting company to undertake a review of the Legal Services Board's organization and compensation structure. I will ask the minister the same question that I asked him last fall: will he make available a copy of this report to the Members of the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the Legal Services Board is connected to the Department of Justice and funded through the Department of Justice, they do have an independent board and a chairperson of the board. I can't make that commitment on behalf of an independent organization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 8, 2016 the minister tabled the most recent annual report of the Legal Services Board. The report indicated that one of the action items in the board's strategic work plan on page 10 says, "Review, update, and consolidate GN positions in Gjoa Haven."

Mr. Speaker, in small communities we do want to keep jobs in our communities and we want more jobs in our

communities. My question to the minister is: can the minister clearly explain whether or not this means that positions may be removed from Gjoa Haven? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Mr. Keith Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, the three positions that currently exist in Gjoa Haven will remain in Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members, the time for question period has expired. Moving on. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. (interpretation ends) Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters

Committee Report 020 – 4(3): Bill 27, Waste Reduction and Diversion Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 27, *Waste Reduction and Diversion Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Bill 27 will appear on the order paper on Thursday, March 9.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Tom Sammurtok.

Committee Report 021 – 4(3): Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act

Mr. Tom Sammurtok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 30, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Legislation and that the bill, as amended and reprinted, is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Bill 30 will appear on the order paper on Thursday, March 9.

Item 13. (interpretation) Tabling of Documents. (interpretation ends) I have one.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 270 – 4(3): 2017 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Health Care Services in Nunavut

Thank you, members. I have one document to table today. I wish to table the 2017 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on Health Care Services in Nunavut*. (interpretation) Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation) Sorry.
 (interpretation ends) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Ms. Monica Ell-Kanayuk.

Tabled Document 271 – 4(3): Nunavut Motor Vehicles Act Consultation Report

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the Nunavut *Motor Vehicles Act* Consultation Report, August 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. The Hon. Minister for the Status of Women, Ms. Ell-Kanayuk.

Tabled Document 272 – 4(3): Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report 2015-2016

Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Nunavut Status of Women Council, Qullit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Minister of Family Services, Mr. Johnny Mike.

Tabled Document 273 – 4(3): Nunavut Food Security Coalition 2016 Meeting Report

Hon. Johnny Mike (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the *Nunavut Food Security Coalition 2016 Meeting Report*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Premier of Nunavut, Mr. Taptuna.

Tabled Document 274 – 4(3): First Ministers' Meeting on Climate Change, December 9, 2016

Tabled Document 275 – 4(3): Annual Report on the Administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy 2015-2016

Hon. Peter Taptuna: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table.

I am pleased to table the First Ministers' Meeting on Climate Change, December 9, 2016.

Also, I am tabling today the *Annual Report on the Administration of Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Tabling of Documents. I have no more names. (interpretation) Moving on. (interpretation ends) Item 14. Notices of Motions. Hon. Minister of Education, Mr. Quassa.

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry. That's Item 14. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions. (interpretation) You had your hand up.

Moving on. Item 15. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First

Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Education, Hon. Paul Quassa.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 37 – An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act – Notice

Hon. Paul Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, that Bill 37, *An Act to Amend the Education Act and the Inuit Language Protection Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Keith Peterson.

Bill 40 – Corrections Act – Notice

Hon. Keith Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, that Bill 40, *Corrections Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. [Consideration in] Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35 with Mr. Mikkungwak in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 41 – 4(3), the committee will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before proceeding to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:04 and Committee resumed at 15:34*

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 32, 33, 34, and 35. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, members. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with Bill 34 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Justice and, if time permits, followed by the Department of Finance and Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 34?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Justice – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask the Minister of Justice if he has officials that he would like to appear before the committee. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have two witnesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to let the minister's staff go to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the minister's officials in.

(interpretation ends) For the record, minister, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Bill Mackay, Deputy Minister, Department of Justice, and to my left is Ji Liu, Director of Corporate Services, Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Mackay and Mr. Liu. I now ask the minister to proceed with your opening comments. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appear today to present the Department of Justice's main estimates for operations and maintenance for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

A total of \$114,274,000 is being requested for the operations of the Department of Justice in the coming fiscal year. This marks a \$2,239,000 increase in base funding.

For law enforcement, the RCMP will get an increase of \$1,754,000 to add nine regular members to communities across all three regions of Nunavut.

In the area of community justice, the department requests \$115,000 to make five community justice outreach workers into Government of Nunavut employees. Currently the community justice outreach workers are working as hamlet employees but taking direction from Community Justice.

To provide better support and supervision from the Government of Nunavut and better service to clients, Community Justice would like to begin transferring the community justice outreach workers from the hamlets to the Government of Nunavut. The community justice outreach workers will still be located in the communities. The \$115,000 is to cover the difference between Government of Nunavut and hamlet salaries and benefits.

The department has agreed to take over prisoner transfers in Iqaluit from the RCMP to allow the police to focus on more pressing issues. The department requests \$120,000 for salaries for three deputy sheriffs in the Court Services Division who will be primarily responsible for Iqaluit prisoner transfers. The RCMP will return the funding of \$160,000 which was approved for provost services.

Lastly, the coroner's office requested a \$250,000 increase in contract services for legal support services to address the rising number of inquests.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson as well as your staff.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Justice.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2017-18 operations and maintenance budget of \$114,274,000 has increased by approximately 0.4 percent since the introduction of the department's 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 378. This is an increase of eight positions from the 2016-17 main estimates.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's Legal Services Board is responsible for ensuring that all eligible persons in Nunavut receive legal aid and related services. The department's proposed 2017-18 main estimates indicate that \$11,818,000 in contribution funding has been allocated to the Legal Services Board for the 2017-18 fiscal year. This amount remains unchanged from the 2016-17 fiscal year.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members raised concerns that the organizational structure of the Legal Services Board includes positions that are currently staffed outside of the territory. The

standing committee recognizes that the Legal Services Board is an arm's-length public agency and is independently governed by a territorial board of directors. The standing committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring that this board is supported and represented by staff within the territory whenever possible.

On November 8, 2016 the minister tabled the 2016-18 *Government of Nunavut and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Shared Directional Statement*. In their shared directional statement, the GN and RCMP indicate that their partnership will "focus on public safety through communication, crime reduction, crime prevention, community engagement and enforcement." The standing committee looks forward to receiving detailed and ongoing updates on specific community initiatives that will be undertaken through this partnership.

During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated that the RCMP "V" Division will include nine new RCMP member positions in a number of communities in the upcoming 2017-18 fiscal year. The standing committee recognizes the need for increased community programming and support that new RCMP member positions can provide communities.

However, during the minister's recent appearance, members raised a number of concerns regarding the challenges that Nunavut's communities are currently facing in relation to filling vacant government positions due to the lack of available housing units. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on how these challenges will be

overcome to fill the new RCMP member positions.

Mr. Chairman, the department's Corrections Division is responsible for providing safe custody and detention, probation and parole supervision, counselling and aftercare services, and rehabilitation treatment for inmates throughout Nunavut.

On November 8, 2016 the minister tabled his department's first annual report on the activities and initiatives of the Nunavut Corrections Division. The standing committee applauds the minister and his department for providing detailed information concerning statistics and programming within Nunavut corrections in this report.

On May 1, 2015 the Department of Justice issued a request for proposals titled *Staffing, Overtime and Organizational Review of the Nunavut Corrections Division*. In its October 29, 2015 response the department indicated that the results of this review are scheduled to be tabled in the House during the spring 2016 sitting of the Legislative Assembly and that the department "hopes to have the necessary positions created to allow for an assessment of programs and services within Nunavut's correctional facilities." However, the results of this review have yet to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The standing committee encourages the minister to table these results in the House at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, community justice outreach workers are currently municipal employees that work with community

justice committees and justice specialists to carry out programs, activities, and services in the areas of crime prevention, diversions, victims support, and the facilitation of remedies under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*.

During his recent appearance before the standing committee, the minister indicated that a number of community justice outreach worker positions would be transferred from municipal positions to new government positions under his department. The minister indicated that this transfer would allow current community justice outreach workers to focus on their duties as they relate to community justice initiatives.

The standing committee emphasizes that these changes should be made in such a way so as to minimize any negative effects that these transfers may have on the employees who currently fill these positions. The standing committee looks forward to ongoing updates on the outcomes of these transfers.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Are there any general comments? I would like to remind my colleagues that the contents of the minister's opening comments are covered under the different branches of the department and you can ask your detailed questions under the appropriate pages.

I have no names on my list.
(interpretation ends) I have no more

members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page E-4. Justice. Directorate. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman as well as the officials here. I would first like to ask a question that was brought up by the Member for Gjoa Haven in regard to the operations of the Legal Services Board. It seems there needs to be some slight adjustments made and the minister stated that they don't have much leeway as they were created by law. Perhaps the minister would be open to reviewing this law so that it would be more Nunavut-friendly. That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe Mr. Okalik is referring to the *Legal Services Act*. Yes, we are open to reviewing that. It's always good to review our legislation to make sure it's current and updated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is approximately \$11 million that we will have to approve for this organization. I think it would be better if we target this money to the needs of Nunavummiut. When would the minister be able to table the proposed amendments to the Act for our review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that we've only got eight more months in the life of this government and the legislative agenda is very heavy, it's unlikely that this government could look at a review or a legislative proposal for the *Legal Services Act*. It would certainly be something that could be considered as part of the transition to the next government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that will be the case, I wonder if the report will be more complete for this organization so it can be acted upon immediately in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't initiated a review, but again as I said, all of our legislation could use a review from time to time. We did talk about it during standing committee and we would be open to initiating a review again. Given the legislative agenda and the short time frame, as we only have two sittings left, it would be very unlikely we could get through all the steps and hurdles to make any changes in this government. Again, as I said, it would have to be part of a transition for the next government to consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they won't be able to do that, maybe they can make preparations so that the next government can start the review right away. That is my next question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's more or less what I have been saying we could do. We could begin the process to review the *Legal Services Act*. It's going to take some time, but we would ensure that, as a transition from this Department of Justice minister to the next Minister of Justice, it would be in the transition plans or in the transition book so that they know it is something that should be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Following my list of names, Mr. Enook

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and your officials.

I would like to ask a question on the information listed on page E-4. You have made some changes to the job descriptions from September 30, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

I am unsure of the equivalent Inuktitut terminology for (interpretation ends) paraprofessionals, (interpretation) but the positions in that category were decreased by 73 percent from 258 to 68 positions.

Also keeping that in mind, the assistant positions in your department for operations or (interpretation ends) administrative support (interpretation) increased by over 500 percent. It went from 33 positions in that category to 200 positions.

Can you explain exactly what that means and what the reasons were for making those changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. That was a reclassification of corrections officers from paraprofessionals to administration and that was at the request of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to ask if the fact that you made these changes to reclassify these positions affected the salary and benefits of employees and, if so, how much of an impact did they have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were no impacts on salaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. Also, in regard to my question on the reclassification of duties that you made

on paper, how many positions were filled and how many positions were vacant? Can you answer that for me today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you give us a moment, my director of corporate services is looking that information up.

Chairman: Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While he's looking for that information, I'll ask if you are able to respond to this question. Of the jobs that were reclassified, were there any appeals or was anyone dissatisfied for being reclassified? Were there any cases like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're unaware of any appeals on the jobs that were reclassified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He's still looking for the information, so I'll ask more questions.

Also in the plan, between September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2016, the number of positions in your department that were located in Iqaluit decreased by 22.4 percent. There were 98 positions to 120 positions. During the same period, if the positions in your department were

transferred from Iqaluit to other communities, how many positions were filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I'm unaware of any positions being moved from Iqaluit to other communities, unless I misunderstand your question. Typically if we're moving positions around, they have to go through a process. The Department of Justice would have to bring that information to the Department of Finance and they would have to look at the decentralized numbers in a particular community. If you move positions out of a decentralized community, you have to move a similar number of positions in. I'm unaware that any Justice positions were transferred to another community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just waiting for the information that you were looking for. Can you respond to my question now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My corporate services director says 80 percent of positions were filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you done? Thank you very much.
(interpretation ends) We are on Justice.

Directorate. Following the list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Peterson.

With Mr. Enook's question on the reclassification of positions, the minister indicated that the salary didn't change, but he didn't mention anything about the benefits. Did the benefits change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. The salary and the benefits would remain the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification. On August 25, 2016 your department made an announcement that the government will be holding public consultations on a new made-in-Nunavut *Corrections Act* in the fall of 2016. Can he indicate which communities his department held its public consultations and can you describe the outcomes of these consultations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community consultations were held in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Cape Dorset, Rankin Inlet,

and Iqaluit. For the initial consultations, there were issues with conflicting dates and misinformation, but we did get them rescheduled and they were quite successful.

We got a lot of good input from the people we consulted with. They recommended an Inuit-specific group to work with the inmates, also to provide counselling, and also there should be more elder involvement, and then that there should be a process of aftercare to help our inmates to reintegrate into their communities after they leave the corrections system. There was some positive input.

We were able to amend our legislative proposal. As you heard earlier today, I gave notice of first reading of the *Corrections Act* for tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will what you heard from the communities be put in a report as well? As we heard earlier today, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation tabled her report on consultations to amend legislation. Will you be doing the same thing for the Corrections Division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have to discuss that with my cabinet colleagues if I can table it. If it does contain sensitive information... . Sometimes reports have names and other

information that is not for public consumption. We would have to look at that, but we will take that under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you. We will anticipate that information as not all members were able to attend the consultations in the communities. If the information were contained in a report, it would allow us to reference it, as members usually want to gauge the progress on proposed legislative amendments. That is just a comment.

Let me move on to another matter. On October 29, 2015, in response to the report of the Standing Committee on Oversight of Government Operations and Public Accounts on the review of the Auditor General's report in 2015 to this House on corrections, the government stated that a new legislative proposal would be presented in the spring. I'm wondering if that legislative proposal is on schedule for this upcoming spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand Mr. Joanasie correctly, he may be referring to staffing, overtime, and organizational review of the Corrections Division. Is that what you are referring to? Maybe he can clarify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. It's the response to the standing committee.

(interpretation ends) The Standing Committee on Oversight, Government Operations and Public Accounts did a review on the Auditor General's 2015 report to the Legislative Assembly on corrections in Nunavut. It talks about your planned introduction of new corrections legislation this spring. Is this on schedule? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the clarification. Yes, it's on schedule. I gave a notice of motion for first reading of bills today, and that will be something I'll introduce tomorrow and then the process officially kicks in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that clarification. Moving along, I'm going to refer to your department. There are 378 positions, if I'm not mistaken. Looking at the business plan, the Inuit Employment Plan is on pages 64 and 65.

I note that in October 2015 you had an employee successfully complete a senior Sivuliqtiksat Program, and then they assumed the role of manager of Inuktitut translation services for the Legislation Division.

It might have been on page 64. As of September 30, 2016 there are 92 positions that are sitting vacant in your department. Can the minister say out of

those 92 if any of those positions have a requirement for an Inuktitut-speaking skill set? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I don't have that information available with me right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister commit to providing some follow-up information perhaps once we're done here or some time before the end of the sitting or before the spring sitting? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that. I noted in the Inuit employment chart here on page 64, it looks like there are eight positions that you're planning on filling for Inuit in the paraprofessional position and seven positions in the administrative.

Not only if you can include any positions that require Inuktitut proficiency, but I'm hoping that the minister can come forward with any positions that are... . What is it? I can't think of the term now. Specific for

beneficiary competitions, can he provide that information as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, certainly we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Justice. Directorate. Following the list of names, Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, minister and staff.

On November 8, 2016 you tabled the Legal Services Board's annual report for the 2015-16 fiscal year. In its annual report the board states, "With an annual budget of \$11,818,000, LSB recorded a surplus of only \$73,000, which is less than 1% of the total budget. This also indicates that the current funding levels for LSB are tightly matched to core operational needs, and any increases in demand or operational costs will require additionally financial resources without compromising quality and consistency of services."

How is your office working to ensure that the Legal Services Board will have the necessary funding to meet the future legal services needs of Nunavut residents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Akoak for the question. If I go back years and years, the federal government and the

Government of Nunavut are supposed to be 50-50 in providing access to justice. Over the years the ratio of funding to legal services in Nunavut has become a ratio of 81 percent Government of Nunavut and 19 percent federal government. We raised that concern with the federal government and the Minister of Justice, not just Nunavut but also the other provinces and territories.

In Nunavut we have, I think since 2009-2010 roughly, the Government of Nunavut has increased the funding. It has almost doubled. We do work very closely with the Legal Services Board and we do work very closely with the Government of Canada. Every once in a while they give us a little bit of additional money for legal services in Nunavut, but it is certainly not enough. We believe that the Government of Canada should provide a more equitable share of funding for access to justice.

We have made the case about how large our territory is and how difficult it is for court circuits, lawyers, and judges to get around and provide legal services in all communities in criminal, civil and poverty areas as well. There is an increase in demand. We are working very closely with our folks at the LSB to ensure that, where possible, we can provide it with additional funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dealing with that, can you tell the House how many lawyers are from outside Nunavut? Where do they come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation) Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: I heard lawyers, or is it Legal Services Board members? Lawyers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the breakdown of lawyers, but I would venture a guess that most of the lawyers that they have are from outside of Nunavut. Some have lived in Nunavut for quite a long time, five to ten years, and have made Nunavut their home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hearing that, do you know what the procedure is where the Legal Services Board is paying for all the travel from where the lawyer is coming from to where the court is happening? Would you have that level of information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't offer a definitive answer, but typically the Legal Services Board would pay most, if not all, the cost. We will have to get clarification on that and report back to Mr. Akoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We look forward to that information. I think that it is very important in times where we are supposed to be trying to save money. Maybe we could look at how we can do that.

My next question is: can you indicate if your office anticipates any increases in funding for the Legal Services Board within the next five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can anticipate Legal Services asking for additional funds. I can't say today whether those funds are approved from the government or whether the Government of Canada provides additional funds. That would be up to the future government to determine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In its draft 2017-2020 business plan your department indicates that one of its priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Develop a new 3 - 5 year work plan for legal aid services in Nunavut." Will you commit to making this work plan available to the public once it has been completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Akoak seems intent on getting me to commit. I can't commit. We haven't even started on that yet. I would presume that a document of that nature would probably be something we would want to make public at some point in the future, but it's too early for us to even say whether we can table it or not and make it public. We haven't even started it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Justice. Directorate. On page E-4. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$17,433,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page E-5. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to the documents in front of us, let me firstly ask the officials about the review of the coroner's report that was completed on November 10 of last year on the results of the coroner's inquest on Felix Shappa Taqqaugaq of Igloolik. I would like to ask if you have reviewed the recommendations contained in the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. Yes, the Department of Justice and the RCMP did receive the coroner's recommendations and are reviewing them. We still haven't completed that review, but they are under review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask what the timeline is for the completion of this review and whether the minister can identify the target date for the implementation of recommendations

submitted as part of the report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a target. I know we passed the December 2016 date, but we don't have a target date. All I can do is assure Mr. Okalik and the other MLAs that the RCMP and Justice are continuing the review. Some of them are quite complex to review and conclude on, but I will commit that we will get this review done at some point. Hopefully this spring possibly we will have it complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans as presented will be my focus as I feel the list of recommendations can be added to.

In reviewing the business plan on page 43, the top paragraph includes a middle sentence that states that the RCMP organized cultural awareness training for the detachment commanders. "Training participants were privileged in learning about pre- contact and post-contact Inuit history, inter-generational trauma affecting Inuit and modern Inuit customs and values."

I would like to ask if the training was provided only to the commanding officers. Will it include all RCMP officers who will be stationed in Nunavut in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That training was only for the detachment commanders, but I understand that training materials will be used for other employees as well in the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was another recommendation where officials stated that all RCMP officers who have recently transferred to Nunavut should receive orientation training of Inuit history and culture. Will this be implemented for new RCMP officers who are recently transferred to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that's part of the new shared directional statement under communications that the RCMP will provide that kind of orientation and look to ensure that their officers receive courses, workshops, Inuit societal values, and the Inuktitut language where possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the business plan on the same page, page 43, the second-last bullet states that the "'V' Division participated in the development of the Inuit Mental Health First Aid Canada Course." Will this program be

implemented and used for all the RCMP officers' training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. One of the recommendations calls for the RCMP to more actively recruit Inuit in such a way that it will not be misunderstood in the communities. In their plans the RCMP will try to hire more Inuit. When will the department be able to respond to this recommendation so that there will be Inuit representation in the police force in all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's an ongoing initiative. The RCMP knows that the wishes of the Government of Nunavut are to recruit more Inuit into the RCMP and to hire more Inuit into the RCMP. Again that's part of the shared directional plans, so we will keep stressing that. It has been that way for years.

Now under this new shared directional statement, we are setting indicators so that we can report back every year to find out what kind of progress we're making. I believe my officials meet with

the RCMP on a very regular basis so we can get updates on the progress they're making in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the RCMP reports, they provide training for past trauma. Will that include the dog slaughters that were carried out by the police? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The RCMP is part of the Embrace Life Council, so that would be part of their work. It would include that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank the father who agreed for me to ask questions in regard to the dog slaughter and who also lost his son at the police's hands. This is an outstanding issue, so I'll be asking more questions in the spring session and I'll leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): That was just a comment. Following my list of names, Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are on page E-5. In regard to policing, I would like to have a full understanding. In March 2016 during the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the 2016-17

main estimates, you stated that you are “committed to exploring community-based programs and made-in-Nunavut alternatives to our current policing arrangement.” Can you describe what specific alternative programs to policing you are currently exploring in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for your question. I had the opportunity at the October federal-provincial-territorial justice ministers’ and public safety ministers’ meeting in Halifax to... We did talk about the First Nations Policing Program. I believe the Minister of Public Safety, Minister Goodale, said they’re reviewing that and they’re hopeful that by 2018-19 they will be able to retool that program and Nunavut could be able to access that. That program does sunset in 2018. It ends, so it will coincide with that.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, that’s the end of my answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I raised this is my question relates to what I believe the minister is well aware of since he has visited many communities.

Let me refer to a historical fact. Back when we were very young and newly moved into what are now our communities, non-Inuit or Qallunaat in particular, such as the authority figures

of the RCMP, were intimidating even just to look at. They were like the boogeyman because if any child was being disobedient, their parents would immediately say, “The white man will come and get you.” These are historical facts and I am completely truthful in that statement. That is how we were scolded, ensuring our obedience.

Today I know for a fact that the majority of RCMP officers are very dedicated and committed to their work. Nonetheless, a bad apple can spoil the barrel. As an example, when certain members are in uniform, especially the Red Serge, they automatically assume an air of superiority towards others. They become arrogant, at least in our communities, and some go as far as being overbearing in the communities. I am being absolutely truthful. This applies to anyone in a uniform because some people can’t handle authority. I am not painting all RCMP officers with the same brush, but certain individuals certainly assume that air and we witness this first hand.

I am asking what meaningful awareness training you are planning to recommend. For example, our RCMP’s attitude should never be like that of the police actions in Toronto or Montreal because our communities are different. Every community has its own method of dealing with issues. I also know that one cannot casually break the law and I am not encouraging anyone to break any laws. How can we correct this cultural situation so that the RCMP is more culturally sensitive and less intimidating in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I don't believe it's the RCMP's intention to intimidate people.

I know a lot of RCMP officers get engaged in community activities. They will coach minor hockey or other sporting activities, they attend hamlet council meetings on a monthly basis, and in the city here in Iqaluit they will update the community on their activities and answer all the questions. We do encourage them to participate in community events and to get out and mingle with people. We do encourage them to work with elders' and youth groups in the communities.

I have talked to the chief superintendent and he has told me that that's what they would like to continue doing. I do read their activity reports when they send them to me. Every detachment sends in regular reports to what they're doing. They're quite busy. They will put on the D.A.R.E program, drug awareness and resistance education, and other types of initiatives in the communities.

I don't believe they're trying to be intimidating, but it may come across like that. At the same time they're in a very difficult and challenging job. If something dangerous occurs, they're the first ones on the frontlines to protect our citizens in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is precisely why I mentioned the fact that we take pride in the work of the RCMP. Further, most are very personable and we notice the majority are very dedicated. Whenever an emergency or dangerous situation arises, we know that they are indeed the frontline workers and we are grateful for their service.

What I was asking about was perhaps related to what Mr. Okalik stated. In the smaller communities the RCMP operations are quite different in some ways from the larger centres. This has to be noted and acknowledged, and you have stated that this has been noted. I'm trying to ask exactly what has been noted and which changes have been made. I know that this may be impossible to answer now.

I believe that the RCMP can be included further and your department's 2017-18 business plan states that it will work towards enabling RCMP officers to converse in the Inuit language. That may be the case, but what I am asking is the Nunavut government has an existing program geared towards Inuit language training for public servants who are non-Inuit. They are provided that opportunity. I wonder if our RCMP officers currently stationed in Nunavut who may express interest in taking the course can be accommodated within this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, under the shared directional statement that is a commitment that the RCMP have made,

to improve communications. Certainly in our meetings with the RCMP, we can have those discussions about how we can help their officers to participate in those kinds of language courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) To that my question, Minister Peterson, is: do the RCMP staff members have access to the language training programs that are offered by the Government of Nunavut? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. I don't believe they do at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, Inuktitut language training programs are offered to Nunavut government staff. What types of Inuktitut language training programs can they participate in, or could we also incorporate that into the agreement between the GN and the RCMP so that they are offered Inuktitut language training courses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know what specific training they have, but as I said, that's something we can discuss with them because it's in the agreement. The shared directional agreement is a two-year agreement. Communications is one of the priority areas. They understand that their officers have to have some language skills so that they can communicate with some of the people who may approach them for help. I can't say definitively today what kind of language programs that they would be able to access or participate in. Again, we can talk to the GN on their behalf if it's something that they would like us to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you. I urge you, Minister Peterson, to revisit this subject. Situations may have escalated from a simple interaction due to language miscommunication. Sometimes what wouldn't have escalated becomes a different situation because of the misunderstanding. I would strongly urge you to revisit that, Minister Peterson.

Let me ask this supplementary question. In your business plan one of the priorities for the 2017-18 fiscal year is to "Support police efforts to implement youth based community policing initiatives." Can you elaborate on exactly what that means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Enook for the question. The type of training the RCMP did was they would send summer students for three weeks of training at the RCMP depot in Regina as part of the Aboriginal Pre-Cadet Training program. Then they would come back to Nunavut to whatever community and then be deployed to work with the RCMP in a detachment somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on page E-5. Justice. Law Enforcement. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon. I just have a few questions on this topic. Yes, it's really true. I want to ask my questions really based upon concerns I have heard out there. One of them was about not being able to have a policeman in the community. You have to phone Iqaluit instead when there's a situation that arises. How many communities are facing that kind of situation where they can't get somebody from the RCMP to actually come to a situation? They have to phone Iqaluit first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Enook)(interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Angnakak. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. From how I understand of the system that they have in place, all the calls have to come through the call centre here in Iqaluit, and then they will contact the officers in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there always somebody there to come to a situation once that call has been placed? How long do they have to wait? Are there circumstances where there is no RCMP? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the questions. That was four questions. You said only a few.

It's very difficult to say, Mr. Chairman. That's why it has to go through the call centre so that the people in the call centre who are taking the calls have a record and they can track and make sure that an officer is contacted. Depending on the community involved, the officers might be engaged at another call. If they're not engaged, then they can probably respond fairly quickly. If they're taking care of another call, depending on their priority sequence ranking, it could be another few minutes or it might take a bit longer. Certainly while they're busy responding to calls, the call centre would be available to make sure the call was taken and logged in and be responded to at some point and then they would follow up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't always really understand the priority and how that's

determined. I had a constituent tell me once that she made a phone call because there was somebody breaking into her house and she was alone. She was a female. She called the RCMP and they said, "We're sorry. We can't come. We've got other things."

Even in situations like that, you would think that that would be pretty high up, but in the end her brother came, racing down with a baseball bat. She was safe, but that really scared her. She really felt that there wasn't anybody there for her. She was told, "Go and figure it out yourself."

That's why it's good to have these kinds of conversations where we need to figure out how things work. I guess involving guns and that would perhaps be one of the top priorities. When somebody feels really threatened like that and she didn't feel that she was listened to, what would somebody do in that situation if they wanted to make a complaint? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for that question. I had the opportunity one night to go on an RCMP ride-along here in this city. I have to say that it was pretty busy that night. We were getting calls all the time and responding as quickly as we could. There are different officers in different trucks, but they were very busy. Not being a trained RCMP officer, I had to trust that they knew. There are different codes when they call in. There are codes for the different incidents that they have to respond to. We were responding fairly quickly, I

thought, to all the incidents that occurred that night. I have to say that it's quite an eye-opener, Mr. Chairman.

If a person has a complaint about the RCMP, there is a civilian complaints process that you can call them up, write them, or email them with the details of the complaint and they will follow up and investigate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another area I would like to get a better understanding on is the issue of elder abuse. It's something that we have talked about quite frequently in the House. It's something that we hear about.

I'm wondering how the police respond or how they deal with situations where perhaps a community knows that elder abuse is going on, but perhaps it hasn't actually come forward in a formal way that this is going on. What kind of interaction do they have with families when there is elder abuse going on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a good question. What I would recommend in those types of situations is rather than call the RCMP, contact or have your family members or other community members contact the community justice outreach worker or community justice specialist and file or talk to them about an emergency protection order or community

intervention order under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*. Then that would kick-start a process where the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* via JP would be signing some orders where the RCMP could get involved and help the elder or other family members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your response. That leads me into my next question. On that shared directional statement it talks about a domestic violence coordinator that would be hired. Can you give us the status on the hiring for that position as of today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I don't have that information with me today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? I apologize. We are on page E-5. (interpretation ends) Law Enforcement. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, minister and your staff.

Firstly quite a while ago I asked this question to the Minister of Education, but I would like clarification. Baker Lake is one of the larger communities. My question is: how does the RCMP deal with bullying? The minister stated earlier that they do a drug education program, D.A.R.E. However, how would

the RCMP deal with bullying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. If the RCMP received a complaint from an individual who is being bullied or awareness of somebody being bullied, I believe the RCMP would respond. I don't know if they would necessarily arrest the person, but they may talk to the person. I say that because I know that's what they do in Cambridge Bay. As part of their daily policing, they would look into the incident. They would talk to people and see what happened. Usually it's with younger people. They can talk to them and say that they shouldn't be doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With that, I'm sure they can talk to anyone in any community. However, my question is: when we're talking about the RCMP, how old do they have to be in order to be charged if bullying becomes an issue? Can they be charged and how old do they have to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. If they're between 12 and 17 and if it's a criminal offence, they could be charged under the *Young*

Offenders Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. If they're too young, they could be charged under the Act. With that, would the parents be notified right away if their child had been charged? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. The parents would have to be present at the interview between the RCMP and the child, a child being 12 and up to 17. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much. That's clearer now, so I'll move on. The other day I asked this to the Minister of Family Services, but his response in part has become difficult in Baker Lake. As Minister of Justice and with the RCMP, if there was violence against a woman and with no women's shelter in Baker Lake at this time, how would you deal with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the question. A couple of weeks ago I was on a conference call with

community justice outreach workers and justice specialists. They had a conference in Cambridge Bay and a lady from Baker Lake asked that exact question because there is no shelter in Baker Lake. I believe, under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, we could put people up at the local hotel for a short period of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Yes, his response is clear, but when there are violent incidents after hotel staff have gone to bed and they don't have access to a telephone, how can the victim be taken care of better by the RCMP? My colleague, Mr. Enook, stated that some RCMP officers know how to exercise the powers that they have. After employees have gone home from the hotel, how would they deal with it then? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, an emergency protection order would be issued and the RCMP would be aware that they might be involved. Depending on where they're placed in the community, the RCMP would be aware and would obviously be keeping an eye on a volatile situation. An emergency protection order is issued for, I think, up to 72 hours to hopefully try to help the people involved to actually avoid any type of violence, domestic violence or other types of violence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mikkungwak.

Mr. Mikkungwak (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. With that being the case, as there is no shelter in Baker Lake, can the minister explain... ? If there is an emergency in Baker Lake, as one of the larger communities, it should be rectified. Anywhere in Nunavut there are many communities with shelters. When there is a lack of shelters, for example, with his colleague, the Minister of Family Services or Community and Government Services, should he start planning to put such a facility in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mikkungwak for the suggestion. In Cambridge Bay we've had a crisis shelter for at least 35 years or maybe longer. It's unfortunate that we require shelters, but we do have the *Family Abuse Intervention Act* that can assist individuals who are in those situations. If there is no facility locally, we can help people in a hotel.

If it's a really extreme situation, I believe under the Act, we can relocate people to another community for a period of time to diffuse the situation. Obviously if there is no facility, your options are limited, but hopefully in most communities there would be shelters or safe homes of some sort; barring that, hotels and then relocation to another community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Going to the next name on my list, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to base probably most of my questions, if not all of them, on the Department of Justice's business plan. I'm looking at page 43. It talks about the "V" Division in the middle paragraph. It talks about suicide prevention training and education, and there is the "V" Division working with the Department of Health.

It says here, "Through support of the GN Department of Health, trigger locks for firearms are available to the public. Members in communities deliver trigger locks and firearms safety information to residents." How well has that program been running at the community level? Is there a set number of trigger locks or information that gets delivered or picked up at the local detachments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Mikkungwak) (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I don't have all the firm details, but I understand that it has been fairly successful. I think I read in another briefing note that 10 communities have been involved. Raising awareness of firearms safety is very important to Health and to the RCMP. I do know they have said that they will even work with the Rangers and other organizations if they want to store their rifles at their detachment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving on, under the same bullet farther on down below towards the end it says that the “‘V’ Division participated in the development of the Inuit Mental Health First Aid Canada Course.” RCMP members “...were asked to complete and provide feedback to help shape this program which is in its final phase of curriculum development.” My question here is: who is developing this Mental Health First Aid Canada Course? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t have any specific details on it, but I believe the GN Department of Health is involved and the RCMP is involved through them on the development of this curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am particularly interested in this because right at the bottom it says, “This Mental Health Program for Inuit is the only program to focus on the needs of modern Inuit, using Inuit history and Inuit culture as the path to understanding and healing.” I’m really looking forward to what this program will have to offer and how it will be delivered in partnership with the Department of Health. I’ll look forward to that information.

I was also going to ask, priorities for 2017-18 on the next page, 44, the last bullet under this for the next fiscal year is to “Support and endorse restorative justice initiatives throughout Nunavut.” Can the minister maybe give us a description of what sort of restorative justice initiatives are currently undertaken by the department and also maybe if there are new approaches to restorative justice that we will be seeing in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In fact I just had a meeting yesterday with the attendant of the Baffin CJOWs and community justice specialists. Again, we work through the local justice committees, support their initiatives, and provide training and other materials to them. Yesterday I personally got some feedback from justice committees and CJOWs on how we can better communicate and respect restorative justice in Nunavut.

Again, at the FTP meeting in Halifax in October I was surprised to learn that most, if not all, jurisdictions in Canada, all provinces and territories are heavily into restorative justice. Some of them were keenly interested in how we work in Nunavut through our justice committees and restorative justice, and involve elders and other local community members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his

response. I look forward to hearing more about some of the restorative justice initiatives going on in Nunavut.

(interpretation) I made a mistake earlier. (interpretation ends) I have some questions too on the shared directional statement. Under page 2 it talks about communities at risk and first of all it says on youth, “In an effort support young people at risk, the GN and RCMP will collaborate to find ways to prevent youth crime and address the challenges of young offenders.”

With that, further on page 3 it goes on to say, “The GN and RCMP agree that they must work...with partners and stakeholders...” hamlets, “...community justice committees, the courts, the public prosecution service, health services, defence representatives, and others to develop proactive solutions to the root causes of youth criminal activity...” When we were talking about Inuit Mental Health First Aid training, going back on the traumas and history of our territory, I think if we can start piecing together how all this came about.

How will these stakeholders... ? Is it like an annual meeting that they will have? How are they trying to address the root causes of youth criminal activity? Can the minister elaborate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We’re working on the indicators. I and my officials are not experts in this area, but I do understand intergenerational trauma to some degree and how it can pass down through four,

five, or six generations or more. It manifests itself in young people today.

The RCMP will have to obviously work very closely with local committees, elders, and others to understand the issues. Of course I’m sure we will have the experts from the Department of Health, mental health experts who can also participate, and there are other community members.

I don’t believe it will be something that will just happen once a year. Depending on the community they could meet... . I know from my own experience in Cambridge Bay, I have participated in committees where we meet as often as we have to, monthly or every few months, to exchange information and help people understand their issues.

The group could be as large as 15 or 20 people involved in this process at the community level. After all that’s where it all starts and we have to work at the community level. That’s why we want the RCMP to be more involved through this shared directional statement and involved in the community.

Instead of just being police officers responding to calls, they can be involved in understanding, sharing information, and understanding the root causes, what’s really causing the pain and suffering in some of the people today. It might not have happened last week, but it might be something from 20, 30, or 40 years earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel like it’s the right path

that the RCMP and the Department of Justice is going to in finding a solution.

I'm just going to make reference to... . This is what we learned in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut training program. That's called the NS curve and it talks about Inuit control over time. It's a curve that shows how Inuit way back, our forefathers were independent, self-reliant, and strong people. Then over time things happened; whalers, missionaries, the RCMP, government. There have been so many effects that it has had on our communities as a society, not only just individuals. The NS curve, that's how much of an impact that Nunavut Sivuniksavut has on the students. When we learn about this stuff, it kind of starts clicking in about what's really happening in our communities, why are the people the way they are. When we're trying to address issues, there are so many things behind it too.

The minister talked about intergenerational things at play and that's definitely true, but also at the same time there are things that are good from our past that we need to bring forward. Mr. Shooyook talks a lot about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, trying to incorporate that into our modern lifestyle and how we're trying to address these issues. They're still relevant and we can employ some of these teachings in our principles in *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I just wanted to point that out.

Hopefully the Department of Justice, in working with their partners, the RCMP, and on the local level, can really start addressing youth crime and not just youth crime but crime as a whole. There is stuff that really has a grasp on today's indicators that were talked about.

I think I'm rambling on, but maybe if the minister can commit that the department and the government can take a look at some of this course in more depth and also with the prospect of what *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* has to offer. Hopefully that can lead to restorative and crime prevention and justice for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Joanasie has made a lot of good points and I believe we understand where he's coming from.

I can direct my officials to contact Nunavut Sivuniksavut. I don't know what they are. The dean? I know the guy who's down there. I think one is retired and one might still be there. We sent, over many years, kids down to take that program from the Kitikmeot and it was very well received. If they can share some of their best practices with us, I do know we're working on community crime prevention plans at the community level. We could use some of that information.

I did extend, again, to CJOWs and justice specialists when I was in a meeting yesterday and talking to the ones at the conference in Cambridge Bay a few weeks ago, I encouraged them to also put forward ideas to us that we could consider. I did reassure those folks that at headquarters we are here to serve them.

If we can get information from the community level up that we can use that people think would be helpful to the

RCMP and other agency members, then we should look at that. I'll have my officials follow up with the Nunavut Sivuniksavut folks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Justice. Law Enforcement. (interpretation) E-5. Following my list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on the English page E-5? While we're here, I would like to make a brief comment on the business plan. The draft 2017-2020 business plan states that Inuktitut language programs will be established for unilingual English-speaking people. Does that mean these programs will provide a strong introduction to the Inuktitut language and ensure that English-speaking unilingual people will actually learn the Inuit language, or is this just a pilot project since it seems to say that is what it is? Please clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If Mr. Shooyook could clarify what page he's on, it would help us. I think he's in the business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Shooyook, please clarify that.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): I'm referring to page 10 in Inuktitut and page 44 in English.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) In Inuktitut it's page 10. In the English document it's page 44. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for clarifying. Under that priority the "V" division has recently promoted an Inuktitut-speaking regular member to the rank of corporal into a position called a detachment watch commander here in Iqaluit. Then the RCMP would commit to mentoring Inuit officers that want to broaden their skill sets and progress through the ranks.

Again, it's a shared directional statement commitment to improve communications. They have promoted another Inuktitut-speaking Inuit regular member to the rank of sergeant in the community policing and media relations position, again here in Iqaluit. They have hired a full-time Inuit public service employee to provide assistance to the "V" division relief unit with clerical and cultural/language support.

They're also an active participant in the Inuit Learning Development Project whereby two candidates would perform a four-month secondment with the Iqaluit detachment. Those candidates are of Inuit descent and they speak Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize as my voice is becoming hoarse.

Indeed, to return to this issue within the Inuktitut version, I'm just following

what it states, "...to increase capacity to communicate in the Inuit language." I now understand that officers who can speak Inuktitut can be promoted to higher ranks. I wonder if that indeed will be the case where only some officers can speak bilingually, although the majority of the lower ranks need only to speak in English. Is that the goal of this particular wording? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. The RCMP is trying to increase the ranks of moving up to corporal or sergeant or higher in the ranks of Inuktitut-speaking officers. They will obviously be English-speaking and Inuktitut-speaking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you. I also thank the minister for his reply. If I may, I want to move to an entirely different topic. You alluded to domestic violence and I want to speak to that if you will allow me.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to family violence and bullying, you responded earlier that the RCMP would talk to instigators when they find out about them. With that being the case, I imagine that since it is contained in legislation today and in the past this was never a practice, I wonder if you mentioned that it would be formulated into the new legislation.

As an example, if there is bullying in the school, parents would become involved and the student is included in the discussions with the parents. Is this the goal of this plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. I was talking about two things. One was the *Family Abuse Intervention Act*, which came into force in March 2008. That's where individuals who feel threatened can contact the community justice outreach worker or justice specialist or someone on their behalf can apply for an emergency protection order to help them get protection right away.

There are also community intervention orders, which are a bit more complex, but then there's the other part where I was talking about RCMP officers. They could charge a young offender between 12 and 17 under the *Young Offenders Act*, but the parent would have to be present.

Then there is the other aspect where with community policing, the RCMP could go into the schools and talk to the students about bullying, talk to them about drugs, and other things like that. This is just part of their work, bringing awareness of bullying. It's dangerous and unacceptable, and drugs are dangerous to youth and illegal to use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying that for me. I wish to ask you another question. As an example, if a student within a school swears at or argues with their teacher and the teacher reports the incident to the RCMP the perceived transgression, the student would be approached by the RCMP. What happens to the student in this situation? Would it start with counselling or would the RCMP immediately charge the student or detain them? Please clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. If the RCMP were to receive such a call, they would obviously respond and they would talk to the individuals involved in the alleged incident, the victim and the person who is doing the bullying; accused, I guess they would call it. They would have to determine whether or not to press charges. If that was the case, then they would have to involve the parents.

If there's not enough evidence or enough justification to press charges, I believe they would probably just want to talk to them and warn them that bullying and fighting in the school and all that sort of stuff is not to be condoned. I would take it that school policy would also state as such as well, that bullying is unacceptable in school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister for clarifying that for me. For this reason I will now ask you my last question. When an incident occurs, for example, when a teacher feels a teenaged student is being argumentative or disrespectful, are the parents first notified or do they just proceed without notifying the parents or include any counselling services where they charge the student with a misdemeanour offence in preparation for a court trial? Is that how these cases are dealt with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for the question. If the RCMP is called and they respond, I believe the parents would have to be part of the interview process with the child. The child would be present and the parents would be there as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank the minister. I am pressing the minister because the process that is laid out isn't being practised. Part of the process isn't even used in practice. Perhaps parts of it can be used.

An actual incident occurred in my constituency. In that case the parents were not notified and the student was charged with a summary conviction. This is particularly troublesome. The subject we are discussing is why we need to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit* and Inuit values in

this process. This resulted in tragic consequences in that case as the student committed suicide after they were charged. He was apprehensive about the court case and his parents were in the dark about his situation. It was quite troubling and it exemplifies the need for improvement.

I wonder if the minister and his officials can resolve the problems in this area and include the RCMP to try to improve the current legal situation. When a student is causing trouble, the parents ought to be notified first and involved in the resolution of the matter. They need to be properly consulted to ensure that the trouble or incident can be resolved to their satisfaction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Shooyook for his comment there. I'll have my deputy minister follow up with the RCMP and the Arctic Bay detachment to see what the details are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on page E-5. Justice. Law Enforcement. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$40,071,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We will take a 10-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:37 and resumed at 17:49

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. We are now on page E-6. Justice. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$3,401,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page E-7. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$13,116,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Onto page E-8 in English. Justice. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you would allow me, I would like to go back to this. In the smaller communities we have a problem with the call centres and it automatically goes down to the Iqaluit call centre. Not everyone speaks in English and sometimes it's quite an emergency. Often unilingual Inuit do not have many family members who can speak English living in their house. Is there an Inuktitut-speaking person who answers the phone at the call centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. It's my understanding that they have bilingual call operators at the call centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those bilingual call operators available on a 24-hour basis? Are the bilingual call operators at the call centre always available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. Again, it's my understanding that it's 24/7 and they're available all hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you for the response. I will then move on to another subject. Can the minister indicate what follow-up services are available for people who go back to their communities from correctional facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on whether or not they have served their sentence, they may be on probation, so they would have to report to a probation officer. I don't know what the conditions would be on their probation, but they may have to report to the RCMP or a probation officer. They may have to report to a community justice outreach worker or a specialist.

If they have served their sentence, I don't know if they have to... . They wouldn't require any support services if they served their sentence, but if they're

at the community level, if they're diverted to the community justice committee, the committee may require them to fulfill certain acts to make restoration for the incident or crime they have committed against the victim. It would all depend on the community and who the individual is.

As we all know, in most communities in Nunavut there aren't a lot of support services for people returning to their communities. That's why, through the Crime Prevention Strategy that we are working on, it will probably involve communities to help persons reintegrate into their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate how many staff members in the Corrections Division are currently certified to perform case management duties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Keyootak for the question. I don't have a specific number, but most of our community corrections officers receive training in various areas to work with individuals who are released on probation. They would have that kind of case management training. It would be various things. A client risk or needs assessment, youth risk needs assessment, discharge and release planning, case management, and the work. The parole officers or probation

officers would be involved in all that.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on page E-8 in English. Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a question that I brought up on numerous occasions. I think there are still some outpost camps that are being utilized by the Corrections Division where they take inmates. Has there been an increase or are there any outpost camps that are being utilized by the Corrections Division? Are there still the same numbers of outpost camps being utilized? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. We currently have three outpost camps in Nunavut. There are two in Kimmirut and one in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For further clarity, are you still looking for additional outpost camps that your department can utilize? Is it possible to set up those types of outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. I don't believe we are looking for any additional outpost camps at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): The minister indicated that they are not currently looking for additional outpost camps. Is it because you are not really utilizing the outpost camps anymore? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we have three outpost camps and a lot of the usage depends on the classification of a person who would be eligible to use an outpost camp. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anybody would like to set up an outpost camp, is it still possible to establish one that can take in inmates? That's my last question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Mapsalak for the question. I have been asked this question before and I wouldn't say we wouldn't consider it. If there's an individual or a group of individuals that want to express an interest in setting up an outpost camp,

we would certainly be interested. Again, it's a type of business and you have to meet certain criteria. You can't just open up your camp and take people from the various facilities. There will be certain criteria to be met, but I'm sure if our director of corrections was contacted, he could provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my last question, but I understand that you're not looking for any new outpost camps to take in inmates and that there are criteria that must be followed in order for outpost camps to be utilized by your department.

Just for further clarity, if there were an individual who could set up an outpost camp to your standards, would you consider using that outpost camp or would that be out of the question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, if there is an individual or individuals, they could contact us and offer their service, but I can't guarantee if we would use it or not. Again, there are minimum standards of services for outpost camps and they would have to meet those. Only certain offenders could be eligible to go to an outpost camp. For example, remanded offenders and sex offenders with violent or sexual assault convictions would be ineligible.

If there's someone who is interested, they should contact us or put a proposal in or write a letter and we can send the information, "Here are the minimum standards. Here's the type of offender that would be eligible to use an outpost camp," and then they can decide for themselves if they want to operate an outpost camp and we could consider whether we would use their service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you very much. I want to start off by asking the minister if he can tell us how many Inuit are employed now at corrections. That has been an area of concern raised in the past. I'm wondering how you are doing in that area now, one year later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You will have to bear with us. Every time you ask a question, we have to get the information and it could be a few minutes or a few seconds hopefully.

Thank you. We have 142 filled positions. These are corrections facilities; 142 filled positions with 36.6 percent filled by beneficiaries, and there are 140 casuals in corrections facilities and 53 are beneficiaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand it's quite difficult to try to get beneficiaries to apply on some of the corrections jobs. As a department what are you doing to try to create that interest that you can get people from the communities especially, perhaps, to come out to some of the larger regions that have correctional services? How are you addressing that problem? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. Well, we have our corrections officials who attend careers days. They run competitions. They do get the information out through community postings and that sort of stuff, but we have lowered the, I don't want to say, qualifications, but we have reviewed the job descriptions to make it easier for Inuit beneficiaries to apply. We have a very intensive training program. I guess there are 10 or 11 modules with 400 and something hours of training that they receive.

We do encourage people that working in corrections is a career. One of the difficulties that we have and if you look at the different facilities, Rankin Inlet folks are more receptive to working there and even at the Makigiarvik. The Baffin Correctional Centre, of course, has got a negative public perception. Anyone that has ever been in that facility will realize or understand that it's a dangerous facility for work for the

corrections officers and inmates.

Of course we're hopeful over the next four years in 2021, when the upgraded facility is open, it will be a facility that could be more conducive to a career in corrections. I think we're also talking to Nunavut Arctic Collage about possibly having a two-year corrections training program based on our Nunavut practices. We do know that the numbers are low, but hopefully that will change in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree. I think it's quite a complex thing to try to figure out.

In 2015 the government issued a request for proposals and it was titled, "Organizational Review, Nunavut Corrections Staffing, Overtime and Other." According to the terms of reference, the successful proponent would conduct an assessment to determine if the division's current staffing, overtime and organizational models meet the current demand for services.

According to the government's website, the contract for this review was awarded to Aarluk Consulting and that was awarded on August 6, 2015. Can you indicate if this review has been completed to date and, if so, what were the results? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the

question. That report was only part of the review. They completed a report, but there is still an ongoing review of the whole corrections and corrections staffing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate what the minister says, but what did the report say in regard to staffing and overtime? That was a big issue that was brought forward to this House. It was something that was a concern to the regular MLAs especially. We saw that the overtime amounts for Justice and I think a lot of that was because of corrections. It was a little over \$3 million. What did the report say about that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. The report made 49 recommendations; three for an organizational staff review; corrections organizational structure, workforce training program, and human resources. There are a whole bunch of recommendations. What it came down to ultimately in the end was the Corrections Division needs to hire a lot more corrections officers.

We have to continue our review to find some efficiency before we come back in the House here and say, "We need all these new corrections officers to fulfill the recommendations as part of this report and review." You can anticipate that there will be more. In future years

we will be approaching, through our business plan and our main estimates, looking for additional PYs in corrections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us, in regard to corrections across Nunavut, how many vacant positions you have in terms of corrections alone? Where you have correctional officers, how many people are having to do double shifts because you don't have the staff to cover the shifts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for bearing with me. If you go to the Baffin Correctional Centre... .

I just want to make sure that I give you the correct information. There are 11 vacancies at the Baffin Correctional Centre, 6 at the Makigiavik, 6 at young offenders, 1 at the Ilavut Centre in Kugluktuk, 11 at the Kivalliq centre, 2 at the women's centre, and 1 at the Utaqqivik facility here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to assume that those vacant positions are equalling to more and more overtime and more and more costs to the department. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course there is more overtime. What we have been trying to do now in the last several months is to address the overtime rather than call whoever is first on the list. Instead of going by seniority, we go by what we call relief workers to come in and provide short-term employment for two to three days. Hopefully it will reduce the overtime.

We just signed a new collective agreement with the NEU. The workweek has gone from 37.5 hours to 42 and that should help. It's too early to say, but it will make the workweek longer and hopefully reduce the overtime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it's too early to ask you about the 2016-17 overtime numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I don't think we have the actual detailed numbers for overtime right now. Yes, it's probably too early. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go to something else just to ask a few questions. I read with

interest your 2015-16 annual report of the Division of Corrections, Department of Justice. It goes in there about reducing the rate of reoffending. It says in here that "...Nunavut Corrections does not have a definition for recidivism," which I can't say because it's a very hard word to say. I'm wondering if you can talk about that a little bit, about why there is no definition and why it's so complicated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. One of the problems of recidivism, we're finding in our own jurisdiction but it's similar in other jurisdictions, is that an individual may be back in jail, but it might not be the same offence. If they're in there for a break and enter and they serve their time, and then they're back in jail but this time it's for a sexual offence, that's two different offences, but it's the same individual. Different jurisdictions have to work around that and figure out how they're going to calculate the recidivism or reoffending or re-contact. That's what we're struggling with right now.

Plus one of our problems right now or issues is that we haven't been doing a very good job over the years of tracking a lot of this. We're going to be doing that and building up a database so that we could track year over year and over time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were going to look at,

instead of tracking what type of crime somebody has committed, but maybe track the individual themselves, they may have committed different crimes. Do you have that kind of information where you're tracking people and how many of those are reoffending? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. We can track individuals returning to the facility. For example, at the Baffin Correctional Centre the rate of offenders returning has been calculated at roughly 70 percent, but again, it could be for a variety of reasons. It may not be for the same offence, but it could be for different offences over a period of five years or longer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very high number for us. How is that in relation to other jurisdictions across Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. In talking to other jurisdictions or comparing, there is high...now I'm struggling with the word...recidivism across Canada, but we just don't know what the reasons are right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Am I to assume then that this has never been looked into? It's 70 percent. That's really high to me and a red flag would go up. I would have assumed I guess that you would have some idea on why we can't reach those that are reoffending at such a high rate. What is it that they need? What is it that we're not giving them or their family? How far back does it go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the question. I think part of it is the program we could offer in the facilities and then what kind of aftercare we're going to offer after people are released from jail. Again, those kinds of issues will be considered in the new *Corrections Act*. That's the kind of stuff we're going to be looking at. The *Corrections Act* we're currently operating under is from the Northwest Territories. It's from 1973. With our new *Corrections Act* we can consider all these issues that we can use to provide better support in jail like programming, Inuit societal values, using the elders in the corrections system, and then support back in the communities when they're released. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if anybody has ever gone back to the reoffender and asked

him or her why they keep reoffending all the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak. It's a good question. I don't actually know if that's something that has been done, but I'm sure through counselling people would open up. Again, a lot of information is protected by access to information. When someone tells you something, you can't just throw it in a report and then use it. We are considering how we can utilize people who have been in jail or correctional facilities and our community crime prevention plans. When they're released and they return to their communities, we can use what they have learned or some of their ideas on how we can help people who are being returned to the community after they're released in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: I would like to ask one more question on this topic before I go on to something else. Has there ever been a case where a reoffender has turned around and has changed his or her way and they actually work at corrections? You hear about some stories, and I don't know about in Nunavut, but you hear of stories where people have really turned around their lives and were able to offer some real support to others going through a similar lifestyle. Do you have anything like that that has happened? Is that something that

maybe the department would be open to looking into? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I haven't met this individual personally, a year or two ago or maybe longer a fellow named Tony was interviewed. There's a show, *Back from the Brink*, where he used his knowledge and experience and he went back and talked to groups and individuals in schools and elsewhere, "This is what I learned and here's what you need to do so that you don't have to follow in my tracks." It was well quite well received from what I understand. There is a success story and a very public success story. There may be other success stories, but they may not be so public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be worthwhile to go and seek him out and see if he knows of some other people and have some kind of round-table discussion because these are high numbers. Maybe that's something you can do that is different than what's being or maybe it's being done. I don't know. In my mind, to me it would seem worthwhile to ask him.

I want to just address segregation practices at the BCC. Your department had indicated in 2015 that pending results of a legal analysis, it was anticipated that an enhanced supervision placement would be piloted at the BCC, and that was in the fall of 2015. Can you confirm if this enhanced supervision

placement has been piloted and can you indicate if this pilot was successful?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to Ms. Angnakak. We don't have that information here. Otherwise I would love to be able to respond with an answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got a little over a minute, so I could take my time. Let's try another question. On November 8, 2016 you tabled the 2015-16 Annual Report for the Division of Corrections, which we have in front of us here. This report indicated that "There was a noticeable decline in the use of correctional facilities outside of Nunavut...as a result of the completion of the mould remediation at BCC and the opening of Makigiarvik," which is good news to hear. How many Nunavut inmates are currently housed in facilities outside of the territory? That should be an easy answer for you, Mr. Peterson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to say that it is an easy answer. 19. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends)

Following the list of names. Justice. Corrections. Following my list of names, Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask first of all about corrections if there is an Inuk manager or director in any of the correctional facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an intern in the Rankin Inlet facility. I met the individual last summer. When his training is complete, then he would take over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the other facilities, as there are quite a number of correctional facilities, and what types of plans are you contemplating? In reading your business plans, it doesn't mention any promotion of Inuit into the higher ranks. This aspect doesn't seem to be included, especially in light of the fact that Inuit make up the majority of incarcerated prisoners. Will this be part of your plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question. It's not a new issue. It has been an issue for many years. Again, we want to promote corrections as a career. We

would support and encourage any Inuit corrections officers who want to move up through the ranks. Again, it's part and parcel of our overall GN *Human Resource Strategy* to identify individuals who want to receive management training or career training in a chosen profession, and corrections would be no different. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The *Corrections Act* is going to be geared more toward Inuit culture and if that's the case, then you will need people knowledgeable about Inuit culture. People like that should be in management so that the new *Corrections Act* can be properly applied. Can you push to have more Inuit trained in the higher ranks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Okalik for the question and comment. Yes, certainly it only makes sense that we do that, the new *Corrections Act*, and then have persons from Nunavut who understand the communities, who have lived up here and grew up here. It makes good sense.

Again, we have to encourage individuals to enter that profession because it's a very challenging profession. It's not an easy job and there is a lot of stress in those positions. In just looking at the numbers for stress leave and sick leave, it can be very stressful. You've got to get people to be interested in that career

and then provide them with proper training.

As I mentioned to Ms. Angnakak, our officials are considering working with Nunavut Arctic College to actually develop a corrections training program so that you can actually go and attend a course for two or three years, and then come out with all the training needed to understand that job. It's not just being an individual who is hired without any background or any training, going into the job and you don't know how to be able to interact with difficult situations. Every day there are very challenging situations. I have read the reports. I'm sure some of my colleagues have read the reports. It's a very challenging position.

Certainly what we want to do is have persons from Nunavut, Nunavummiut, to be in corrections, running the facilities, and offering programs and counselling in the facility so that when people are released into the communities, they're released with possibly skills, a better understanding of what got them into trouble, and hopefully they don't reoffend or become one of those re-contact or recidivism individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that Inuit will not be appointed to the positions at corrections, especially when they're fewer than those already working there. Perhaps more training can be provided to existing staff on Inuit cultural issues and get orientation on trauma experienced by Inuit. I'm sure the guards can be

provided with more training to increase their awareness of what Inuit inmates have gone through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it does occur. Now we do provide training. Corrections has, I believe, 10 modules and 400 hours plus of training and that includes training in cultural, traditional and IQ values. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was very happy when I went to tour the facility in Rankin Inlet that unilingual English-speaking people were taking an Inuktitut language training course. Perhaps you can provide more Inuktitut training for the correctional guards so that they can communicate with the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an opportunity last summer to tour that facility. It's like night and day between the facility in Rankin Inlet and what we see out at the BCC, but hopefully when that facility out here is upgraded, it would be more conducive to attracting individuals to work in corrections. Of course, as I indicated earlier, we do include an Inuit cultural awareness component in our training and we could encourage corrections through our corrections

officials to offer it as part of the additional training with some language training so that they can communicate with the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Okalik.

Mr. Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll leave it at that for now. I would like to see all these things occur in the future. That is all for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. That was just a comment. Following my list of names, Ms. Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you. No, I just thought of one thing because Mr. Okalik made me... . When you were talking about the Rankin Inlet healing facility, Mr. Friesen, I think, is doing a very good job here. Maybe he is somebody that you can bring here to make it the same over here so that we have the opportunities where we can have the same type of services happen over here. He would probably be a very good person help make that happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Ms. Angnakak for the suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many questions, but I'll start on... I think it might have been touched up on, but can the minister describe some specific supports that are provided to individuals in their reintegration into the community once they have been released from a correctional facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. It has only been recently where Community Corrections did this a few months ago, actually in December, where they launched a discharge and release plan for persons who were being released from custody back into communities and they were on an active probation order. I don't know what would be in the discharge and release plan, but presumably it would be pertinent to the individual. Not every individual will have the same discharge and release plan, but it would provide them with a continuum of care when they're back in their community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, minister. With that plan, I guess it's like a template with steps or that sort of thing. You mentioned something about the plan being worked on in December recently. Can you share it in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. Those discharge and release plans will be individual plans. It would depend on their circumstances. It would also depend on what community they're returning to because not all communities have the same level of services back in their communities, such as wellness programs or addictions services or mental health services. Most communities have justice committees, so those committees would work with the individual if they were released. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I liked what Ms. Angnakak was saying too about possibly looking at previous inmates that have turned their life around. I have seen that film, the documentary, *Tony Back from the Brink*, and it's about this guy. I believe he's from Clyde River. He ended up working with the Ilisaqsivik Society and giving back to the community and trying to be a role model to other people that might be on the wrong path. That's just a comment.

Going back, I wanted to talk about this final report by the Division of Corrections. This talks quite a bit, first of all, about contraband and incidents of contraband and that sort of thing. There was a chart towards the back where it showed... Let me just find it here. It's Table 7 of Appendix B and it shows the different types of contraband or incidents. Can the minister say what happens in these instances once an inmate or in some cases a visitor trying

to visit an inmate is found with contraband? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I read this report, I have to say I was pretty surprised with the amount of contraband that can get into a facility. I remember years ago when I was the Minister of Justice earlier, I had asked about it. There used to be a drug sniffing dog called Jack. They were telling me about drugs in the BCC and I asked, "Did you ever bring Jack in?" They told me they did. The poor dog, I guess, was just overwhelmed by the drugs and he got sent south and reassigned to, I think, the Canada border agency or something. That's what they told me.

Anyway there were a lot of drugs in there getting in and out of the facility. It's amazing how they do it. They can drill a hole through the wall and squeeze it through or put it under the fence when they're out in the bullpen there. Of course when visitors come there, they're checked and as much as possible they're asked questions. If an inmate is found to have drugs, then their privileges could be taken away or they could be put in segregation depending on how serious it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Moving along on to Table 9 on page 23 of the report, Appendix C, IT talks about segregation placements. I noted that the BCC, there's a little asterisks on it saying that "There were 37 segregation stays in BCC that were

documented but no reason was provided, this number is not reflected in the above data." Can the minister explain this chart and that little asterisk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could Mr. Joanasie clarify what page he is referring to and the chart again? I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's on page 23, right at the end, Appendix C, Table 9. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasie for the question. I have to plead ignorance on this one. I don't have an explanation why that asterisk has segregation stays in the BCC that were documented, but no reason was provided. I apologize for that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When it says it was "...documented, but no reason provided," is that standard practice for correctional officers if they're going to put someone into segregation or do you always have to provide a reason? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a requirement to document for the record the reasons for segregation. We believe it was probably a recordkeeping error that led to this “no reason provided.” It’s not a standard practice. That’s the answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Angnakak asked about how many inmates are currently housed outside of the territory. I’m on page 18 of the same report. Table 1 shows the overall average counts and peaks from 2015-16. The minister said that there are 19 inmates currently outside of the territory, which is an all-time low, if I can compare it to that chart. Can the minister state what the current numbers are for the other correctional facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Joanasié for the question. Since 2008-09 there has been significant improvement in facilities. In 2009 I recall they had women in the BCC with men, but in a separate pod. That led to overcrowding,

Then we built the women’s’ correctional facility, then we eventually built the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility, and then we built the Makigiarvik. We have added facilities, which allowed us not to have to send people to the North Slave Correctional Centre in Yellowknife. I remember that used to be \$266.67 a day. It was like \$100,000 per inmate per year. It cost us \$4 million just to house inmates in these other facilities, and then

we had agreements with Ontario and Alberta. We made significant improvements.

I remember touring some facilities in Ontario in 2009 where I met fellows from Nunavut. In fact I met a lot of my constituents at one of the facilities. We had almost like a constituent meeting, “Hi, Keith. How are you doing? Tell my mom and dad that I’m doing okay.” Someone mentioned earlier about talking to the individuals. They were telling me, “If we’re going to serve a sentence, we would like to serve our sentence in Nunavut.” We have added these facilities and then with the new facility that will come on stream in a few years, it will really enhance our facilities and continuum of care.

To answer your question, in the Baffin Correctional Centre, as of March 3, in remand we had 23 individuals, sentenced there are 25. At the Makigiarvik there is 17 on remand and 19 are sentenced. At the Rankin Inlet Healing Facility 16 on remand and 11 on sentence. The Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre, there are three persons there. Utaqqivik here in Iqaluit there are 11. The Nunavut Women’s Correctional Centre there are seven. In outpost camps there are three. There are 135 in our facilities in Nunavut as of March 3. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Joanasié.

Mr. Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry. Did he include the young offenders as well or did I just miss it? If he didn’t, can he be kind to share that?

When Ms. Angnakak asked of the 19 inmates outside of Nunavut, can the

minister state where they are located?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are located in the Northwest Territories, Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Is there a breakdown between the provinces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to correct the earlier number now. I'm just reading it. We actually have 20 incarcerated in other jurisdictions, not 19; eight are in the Northwest Territories. In the past we used to have upwards of 30 to 40, so it's significantly lower. In Ontario there are 11 and in the past we would have upwards of 30. Currently it says in British Columbia and Alberta there's only one in the two provinces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Joanasie.

Mr. Joanasie: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's 21; 8, 11, 1, and 1. I was going to ask too what the department gets charged for. I guess it's a daily rate. Is it a daily rate or how is that cost agreed to between Nunavut and the other jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to Alberta and BC, between the two provinces, there's only one, but we have agreements with both provinces. We have to send people, but currently there's only one between the two provinces.

In the Northwest Territories the daily rate is \$300.76 per day. I was just reading a briefing note here and it says with an average of nine offenders in the Northwest Territories, the Government of Nunavut spends close to \$1 million per year for an average of nine. In Ontario it is \$230 per day per offender. There's an average of 14 offenders that are housed in Ontario. That's about \$1.2 million per year. The current cost for housing offenders in BC, Manitoba, and Alberta is \$250 per day per offender. This is interesting. With an average of one offender housed in these jurisdictions, the GN spends over \$91,000 a year. I'm just not sure why we have one person in either one of those provinces, but there must be a reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. (interpretation ends) We are on Justice. Corrections. Following the list of names, Mr. Shooyook.

Mr. Shooyook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me another opportunity to speak. As other colleagues generically state, this is only a commentary. If you allow me this opportunity, I would like to speak to the matter of corrections.

What I want clearly understood about these correctional institutions, especially in light of my passionate fight on IQ, is that all departments have to experiment with the subject of *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* as I want these cultural beliefs to be incorporated.

In an earlier period I spoke to this issue of prisoners who have served their time. Even if they had been incarcerated or an alcoholic or who committed different crimes, we have people who have served their sentence in Nunavut and they can provide a lot of assistance.

One of my colleagues stated that they were fearful of prisoners at the BCC, that they didn't wish them to be involved in a particular program. This is contrary to our beliefs, as they have completed their jail time. We have people that have completed their sentence. As was mentioned, we have many people who are no longer prisoners. Based on traditional laws, any Inuk who has served their sentence can provide assistance to others.

When a person only lives productively, they have no inkling of how to assist people who had been incarcerated. What I want to mention here is the saying. Whenever a person applies for a position, particularly in the schools and offices, they have to complete a criminal record check prior to qualifying fully for that position.

However, some people who may have a criminal record, who have successfully finished their sentence can provide personal experiences and loads of advice. I'm not just guessing in this case, as this is absolutely truthful, as we have many people in Nunavut who are very

capable, even with a criminal record, which I want your officials to understand.

This is also part of the protection efforts of *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit* where, if this is incorporated into the departments, they have to start with a clean slate, especially when incorporating IQ, as to whether the thousands of years of knowledge has a modicum of truth or not. I don't ever wish to state deceitful things, as experience of many generations has a grain of truthfulness.

I don't think I'm going to be here with the next government, but I would like to urge the government to implement *Inuit Qaujimanituqangit*. That's just a comment in support of IQ. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my comments, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Minister Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always appreciated Mr. Shooyook's advice and suggestions. He has visited me a couple of times at my office to talk about IQ in the correctional facilities. He has also visited the Baffin Correctional Centre to see for himself what needs to be done out there. I appreciate the advice.

I'm sure MLAs who return to this Assembly or the new ones will have an opportunity to consider the advice he has given. There's always the *Hansard*. We will have officials around in the next government who have heard his comments.

I'll be giving first reading of the *Corrections Act* tomorrow at some point

and that's based on consultations we've had with communities. There are a lot of good recommendations in there, and then it will eventually go to the standing committee where Mr. Shooyook and other MLAs can have a chance to review it, ask myself as a minister and my officials questions about it or make suggestions and amendments if need be. Hopefully in the life of this government we can pass the new *Corrections Act* and Mr. Shooyook could have a hand in that so that when he has retired back up in Arctic Bay, he knows he has done his job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Shooyook. (interpretation ends) Thank you. We are on Justice. Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$35,401,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On page E-9. Justice. Community Justice. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few quick questions on this section. In the minister's opening comments on page 1, you state, "In the area of community justice, the department requests \$115,000 to make five community justice outreach workers GN employees. Currently the community justice outreach workers are working as hamlet employees but taking direction from Community Justice." Can you tell us which five communities will be affected by this? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. I just want to verify. I don't want to say the wrong community, but they have assured me that the first five communities would be Baker Lake, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, and Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are these the only communities that are under such arrangements with municipalities or are there other communities with similar arrangements and, if so, why are you only doing five and not all communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Rumbolt for the question. No, there are more communities under similar arrangements with the hamlets. We just felt that it would be better for transition and orientation if we did it five at a time and eventually bring them all over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're requesting \$115,000 for five employees and that only works out to about \$23,000 for each employee. Will they be brought over as casual employees or will they become indeterminate employees for the department? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think anybody would work for that kind of money, but we have contribution agreements with the hamlets, so those would be terminated. The funding that flows to the hamlets through the contribution agreements would come back to the Government of Nunavut and then we would top it up with \$115,000 to make it... Sorry. It's \$449,000 that we have contribution agreements, so that plus the money of \$115,000 would top it up and then we could offer them the same salary and benefits that they might expect being a Government of Nunavut employee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one final question because he didn't answer it in my previous question. Will these employees become full-time employees or will they be listed as casual or part-time employees? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, Mr. Rumbolt. Those employees would be indeterminate employees with the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. On page E-9. Justice. Community Corrections. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$4,852,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page E-3. Department Summary. Justice. Total Operations and Maintenance, to be Voted. \$114,274,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that we have concluded the Department of Justice?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Minister of Justice, Mr. Peterson, closing comments.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank yourself and the committee for the excellent questions today, very good and insightful questions that make us think about where we are now and where we want to be in a few years. It is all very helpful to me, my officials, and our government.

I would like to thank, of course, my officials, who are here today. I neglected to mention our backup fellow in the gallery, Mr. Stephen Shaddock. I didn't have to ask him to come in.

I would like to especially thank our staff out in our various offices and facilities across Nunavut in all our communities. They do a tremendous job every day under some very trying circumstances. I want them to know that they have the support of me, my officials, and the Legislative Assembly as they go about their jobs serving our communities, making our communities a better place to live, and helping their fellow citizens. I would just like to throw that shout-out to them. With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

(interpretation ends) We will take a five-minute break to set up for the next department.

>> *Committee recessed at 19:12 and resumed at 19:22*

Bill 34 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2017-2018 – Finance – Consideration in Committee

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting back to order. I would now like to ask the Minister of Finance to proceed with opening comments. Mr. Peterson.

Hon. Keith Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to discuss the Department of Finance's 2017-18 main estimates and business plan.

Before we discuss spending details, I would like to first describe some high-level changes we made to our department's organizational structure last summer.

The main change was to create a human resource branch within the department. Because of this, the core HR functions our department oversees - compensation and benefits, recruiting and staffing, employee relations, and job evaluation - are now part of a focused branch of HR personnel led by a dedicated associate deputy minister.

Before last summer the department had delivered these HR services from within a larger comptrollership branch, which

also managed matters like the GN's Public Accounts and our back-end financial systems.

By splitting this larger branch in two, we have created a streamlined structure that better supports our delivery of both HR and comptrollership functions.

Mr. Chairman, the department is well positioned to continue its good work in 2017-18 and beyond.

I would like to highlight a few achievements from this past year:

- We worked with the Nunavut Employees Union to develop and sign a new collective agreement for GN employees;
- We tabled the 2015-16 *Public Service Annual Report* in the fall sitting of the Assembly, three months earlier than the 2014-15 report and nearly seven months earlier than earlier governments had delivered it;
- 249 students in 24 communities took part in our most successful summer student program ever;
- We maintained our Aa1 credit rating with Moody's Investors Services, an important marker in how others think of the government's finances;
- We once again tabled our audited Public Accounts in the fall sitting, with no qualifications of any kind.

Looking ahead to next year, the Department of Finance is seeking total O&M funding of \$94,831,000 through the main estimates. This is just \$537,000 more than what we received through last

year's main estimates, an increase of about 0.6 percent. All of the new funding requested is dedicated to centrally administered funds and not core departmental operations.

Centrally administered funds are payments our department manages on behalf of the entire government and include costs related to GN employee medical travel, the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, lease payments on certain office buildings, Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission premiums, and other insurance premiums. In total the department is seeking \$52.7 million for the Centrally Administered Funds Branch in 2017-18.

All other changes you see reflected in this year's Department of Finance budget are the result of internal reallocations of existing funding.

We are planning increases for our Corporate Management, Fiscal Management and Comptrollership branches, seeking \$505,000 in total reallocations across all three.

The largest driver of funding changes across these branches is compensation and benefits adjustments to reflect current and expected staffing levels.

Mr. Chairman, as part of our work to deliver quality human resources services and in line with the structural changes I discussed earlier, we are proposing to redirect an additional \$1.6 million in our new dedicated Human Resources Branch. This funding will support ten new human resource positions:

- Four new positions for Recruitment and Staffing as a way to help all

Government of Nunavut departments better address the vacancies they face;

- Four new positions for Employee Relations as we continue our work to build a productive, healthy and supportive workplace; and
- Two new positions in Rankin Inlet to support our payroll operations in the Kivalliq region.

These 10 new positions, which we are proposing to fund through internal reallocations, will bring the department's total number of personnel to 281. These new positions will help us advance our work to implement the Government of Nunavut's *Human Resource Strategy*. As I noted in my Budget Address, we have made several improvements to date, including:

- Introducing a policy on workplace harassment;
- Providing anti-harassment training to nearly 500 employees across the territory to promote a respectful workplace;
- Better supporting individuals who return to work;
- Training our managers about their responsibilities to accommodate employees' needs; and
- Supporting breastfeeding mothers in the workplace.

The department will continue our work to increase Inuit employment, recruit skilled people, develop our employees, and improve our service to the public.

We look forward to the second annual report of the Government of Nunavut's ethics officer, which is another of the important contributions we have made to and for our public service.

Last June Members of this Assembly passed a motion recommending the creation of a public service commission. We have explored that option. We have also undertaken a review of possible approaches to shared services so that our new government will be informed when it takes office.

I noted with interest that the Government of the Northwest Territories recently announced plans to join its own departments of Human Resources and Finance as a way to improve its own public service.

Mr. Chairman, at my last appearance I presented an overview of the Government of Nunavut's fiscal situation and noted there was not much room within our fiscal framework for departments to increase spending substantially. This will now be exacerbated by the tragic loss of the Kugaaruk school last week.

Overall the Department of Finance is "practising what we preach" by proposing a budget for 2017-18 that addresses core department and government priorities while making the most of existing funding by minimizing annual spending growth. As an example, we are able to fund the cost of the new human resource personnel from within existing resources.

Whether promoting fiscal responsibility across departments, ensuring the integrity of our financial operations, or

working towards excellence in human resource management, our finance officials contribute positively to the overall operations of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the chair of the standing committee have opening comments? Mr. Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good evening. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide opening comments on behalf of the Standing Committee on Government Estimates and Operations on its review of the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Finance.

The standing committee notes that the department's proposed 2017-2020 operations and maintenance budget of \$94,831,000 has increased by approximately 0.6 percent since the introduction of the department's 2016-17 main estimates. The number of positions in the department is 281. This is an increase of ten positions from the 2016-17 main estimates. The department's proposed main estimates and business plan reflect a number of changes to the department's organizational structure, including the establishment of a new human resources branch.

During the minister's recent appearance before the standing committee, members took the opportunity to raise a number of issues and concerns.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance provides support to the Financial Management Board. A government-wide issue for which the Financial Management Board has

responsibility is the size of the public service.

The total number of positions in the government continues to increase. The government's proposed 2017-18 main estimates indicate that there are approximately 4,676 positions in the government's departments and major Crown agencies and territorial corporations. This represents an increase of approximately 97 positions, or 2.1 percent, over the number of positions accounted for in the government's 2016-17 main estimates. However, the government's December 2016 quarterly employment report indicates that there were 1,236 vacant positions across the government as of December 31, 2016, which represented a vacancy rate of approximately 25 percent.

It is important that the Financial Management Board be mindful of the need to control growth in the number of government positions at a time when departments and Crown agencies face significant challenges in filling their existing vacancies and roughly one-quarter of the government's jobs stand empty.

It is also important for the government to be mindful of the Minister of Finance's own comments to the Committee of the Whole on March 19 of 2014 when he publicly informed Members of the Legislative Assembly that the government would, from a budgeting perspective, be "...in a very difficult situation if [it] were 100 percent staffed."

It is also important to note that approximately one-third of the government's total spending is on

compensation and benefits for its own workforce. For the 2017-18 fiscal year this amounts to over half a billion dollars.

The 2015-16 ministerial letters of expectation to the government's five major Crown agencies and territorial corporations were not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until October 30 of 2015, almost seven months into the fiscal year. The 2016-17 letters of expectation were tabled on June 7 of 2016. The standing committee recognizes the significant improvement in the timeliness of the tabling of these items, as well as recent improvements in the timeliness of the tabling of the *Public Service Annual Report*.

The standing committee continues to emphasize the importance of continuing to expand the range of information contained in future editions of the *Public Service Annual Report*, including absenteeism rates and information concerning the employment of disabled persons in the public service.

On November 3 of 2016 the Minister of Finance tabled the government's 2015-16 annual report on grants and contributions made by all departments during that fiscal year. Between the 2004-05 and 2015-16 fiscal years the government's grants and contributions expenditures amounted to approximately \$3.44 billion.

As members will recall, the Commissioner's Opening Address that was delivered at the beginning of the Second Session of the current Legislative Assembly announced that one of the government's priorities would be to "ensure funds provided to

organizations, communities, and individuals adhere to better accountability practices that achieve the outcome this government expects from its investment.”

Although members recognize the need for the government to safeguard proprietary information of private entities, the purpose and goals for which public money is being provided to private entities must be disclosed. This in turn should assist the government and all Members of the Legislative Assembly in evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are actually achieving their objectives and providing value for money. Although the annual reports identify the programs under which funding was provided, the actual purpose of the funding is often not clearly explained, much less the actual results and outcomes of the spending.

The department’s proposed 2017-2020 business plan indicates that the “Phase 2 audit of grants and contributions of GN departments” is underway. It is important that the government’s work in this area clearly distinguish between ensuring that grants and contributions payments are being made in compliance with existing authorities and evaluating the extent to which grants and contributions expenditures are actually achieving their stated objectives and providing value for money.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee strongly supports the government’s Summer Student Employment Equity Program, which provides valuable work experience for Nunavut youth. Approximately 2,610 students, over 77 percent of whom were beneficiaries,

have participated in this program since 2001.

In recognition of the fact that many of our territory’s smaller communities do not have a significant Government of Nunavut presence, the standing committee has urged the government to consider such ideas as providing wage subsidies to municipalities and other employers to hire summer students in smaller communities that do not have a large Government of Nunavut presence. The standing committee notes that the 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Family Services indicates that it has recently piloted a new Summer Employment for Nunavut Students Program that provides wage subsidies to private sector employers, municipalities, and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of hiring students.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments on the proposed 2017-18 main estimates and 2017-2020 business plan of the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Enook.

Mr. Enook (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing the clock, I move to report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress to the Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20.
Report of the Committee of the Whole.
Mr. Mikkungwak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Mikkungwak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 34 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Akoak. (interpretation ends) The motion is in order. All those in favour. (interpretation) Thank you. (interpretation ends) Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22.
Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder that the Standing Committee on Legislation meets again at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 8:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 44 – 4(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 37
 - Bill 40
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 26
 - Bill 32
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 34
 - Bill 35
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you.
(interpretation ends) This House stands
adjourned until Wednesday, March 8 at
1:30 p.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:44*

